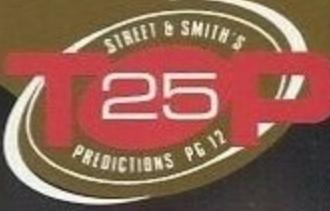


Street & Smith's®

2005 YEARBOOK



COLLEGE FOOTBALL



GUNSLINGERS

Vince Young and Reggie McNeal
prepare for a Big XII QB showdown in Texas

ALSO INSIDE:

PREDICTIONS

DEPTH CHARTS

DIVISION 2 & 3 PREVIEWS

JUCO REPORT

TEAM-BY-TEAM STATS

COMPLETE D-1 SCHEDULES

TEXAS

10

Small Wonder

North Texas RB Jamario Thomas
is a Mean Green machine

CANADA / FOREIGN \$9.99
DISPLAY UNTIL SEPT 27, 2005

US \$6.99



0 70992 37129 7



THE ADVANTAGE IS UNDENIABLE.®

UNDER ARMOUR®'s exclusive microfiber fabrics wick sweat from your skin, keeping you cool, dry and light regardless of the elements. UA Metal™ is the latest evolution in performance apparel. The metallized inner layer propels moisture from the skin to the garment's outer layer, accelerating moisture transport. It's technology you can see, creating a dry, light microclimate next to your skin.

UNDER ARMOUR®
PERFORMANCE APPAREL

1.800.4.ARMOUR • WWW.UNDERARMOUR.COM

Pictured: HeatGear® Ervo Ronningen Cleats (mtm), TechGear F Dazzle Cleats (mnk)

heatgear® END WHEN IT'S JUST

METAL

Endorsement of 12-game schedule is NCAA hypocrisy at its worst

OK, let me see if I've got this straight.

The NCAA Board of Directors approved the addition of a 12th game to the college season in late April, meaning that's one more week players on each of the 117 Division I-A football-playing schools must balance football and academics.

And we've been told for years now that a playoff system—even a four-team playoff—would take away too much class time from "student-athletes" for the college presidents to even remotely consider.

By the way, the NCAA Board of Directors is made up almost entirely of college presidents. Isn't that ironic.

So, it's fine to burden 117 schools with one more game—if there's money to be made—but not the 16, eight or four teams that would be involved in a playoff.

"The season will not be elongated, it just means a bye week would be taken out," said NCAA President Myles Brand with a straight face.

This is the same Myles Brand who sought his current position on an academic-reform platform in 2003. Despite his best efforts at "reform," it appears it didn't take long for ol' Myles to get with the policies that most I-A college presidents support.

Those policies can be summed up in one word: *money*.

If you want to expound on that, try this word: *hypocrisy*.

The amazing thing is that the college football powers that be don't see anything inconsistent in all of this. For them, it's just business as usual. They talk the talk of academics, but don't walk the walk.

They explain away their cash-hungry new ideas by turning it around on the players, saying they overwhelmingly want to play another game. Hey, they also overwhelmingly want to graduate, but who can find time for that in the middle of an NFL-type season? They say they're just trying to give their member schools more "flexibility" in scheduling. Who are they trying to kid? They're simply giving themselves more flexibility in finding revenue.

This all wouldn't be so bad if they'd just be honest with us and say so. But, like so many other times, they want it both ways. They want to feed the hunger for more football and more revenue, and look above the fray doing so. The truth is, you can't. A used-car salesman can say he's in the business of marketing pre-owned vehicles, but he's still a used-car salesman.

And, despite his best intentions, that's what Myles Brand has become by endorsing this ridiculous expansion of the college football season. He's not the guy on the lot who gives you your test drive and sells you the car, but he's the one inside the dealership who'll close the deal and make sure all that silly financing is squared away.

You know, the one who's laughing all the way to the bank.

SCOTT SMITH
EDITOR

ON DECK:

Street & Smith's Pro Basketball on sale Sept. 2005
Street & Smith's College Basketball on sale Sept. 2005



MAKE THE

WINNING CATCH!

Order your favorite Street & Smith's 2005 College Football Yearbook cover.
Only \$6.99 ea* 17 to choose from:



1-800-380-7404

www.streetandsmiths.com

*+\$3.50 for first magazine

+.50¢ for ea. additional mag.

Street & Smith's
Sports Gear

2005 TEAM INDEX

<< A >>

| | |
|---------------------|-----|
| Air Force | 124 |
| Akron | 128 |
| Alabama | 109 |
| Alabama A&M | 159 |
| Alabama State | 159 |
| Alabama-Birmingham | 76 |
| Albany | 152 |
| Alcorn State | 159 |
| Appalachian State | 156 |
| Arizona | 95 |
| Arizona State | 92 |
| Arkansas | 110 |
| Arkansas-Pine Bluff | 159 |
| Arkansas State | 137 |
| Army | 141 |
| Auburn | 107 |
| Austin Peay State | 155 |

<< B >>

| | |
|-----------------|-----|
| Ball State | 132 |
| Baylor | 72 |
| Bethune-Cookman | 158 |
| Boise State | 113 |
| Boston College | 23 |
| Bowling Green | 128 |
| Brigham Young | 123 |
| Brown | 150 |
| Bucknell | 154 |
| Buffalo | 129 |
| Butler | 155 |

<< C >>

| | |
|---------------------------|-----|
| California | 90 |
| Cal Poly | 149 |
| Central Connecticut State | 152 |
| Central Florida | 77 |
| Central Michigan | 132 |
| Charleston Southern | 147 |
| Chattanooga | 156 |
| Cincinnati | 41 |
| Citadel | 156 |
| Clemson | 25 |
| Coastal Carolina | 147 |
| Colgate | 154 |
| Colorado | 59 |
| Colorado State | 124 |
| Columbia | 150 |
| Connecticut | 39 |
| Cornell | 150 |

<< D >>

| | |
|----------------|-----|
| Dartmouth | 150 |
| Davidson | 155 |
| Dayton | 155 |
| Delaware | 144 |
| Delaware State | 158 |
| Drake | 155 |
| Duke | 34 |
| Duquesne | 151 |

<< E >>

| | |
|--------------------|-----|
| East Carolina | 77 |
| Eastern Illinois | 153 |
| Eastern Kentucky | 153 |
| Eastern Michigan | 131 |
| Eastern Washington | 146 |
| Elon | 156 |

<< F >>

| | |
|-------------|-----|
| Florida | 100 |
| Florida A&M | 158 |

| | |
|-----------------------|-----|
| Florida Atlantic | 136 |
| Florida International | 137 |
| Florida State | 21 |
| Fordham | 154 |
| Fresno State | 114 |
| Furman | 156 |

<< G >>

| | |
|------------------|-----|
| Gardner-Webb | 147 |
| Georgetown | 154 |
| Georgia | 102 |
| Georgia Southern | 156 |
| Georgia Tech | 33 |
| Grambling State | 159 |

<< H >>

| | |
|------------|-----|
| Hampton | 158 |
| Harvard | 150 |
| Hawaii | 117 |
| Hofstra | 144 |
| Holy Cross | 154 |
| Houston | 79 |
| Howard | 158 |

<< I >>

| | |
|----------------|-----|
| Idaho | 118 |
| Idaho State | 146 |
| Illinois | 57 |
| Illinois State | 148 |
| Indiana | 57 |
| Indiana State | 148 |
| Iona | 151 |
| Iowa | 50 |
| Iowa State | 63 |

<< J >>

| | |
|--------------------|-----|
| Jackson State | 159 |
| Jacksonville | 155 |
| Jacksonville State | 153 |
| James Madison | 144 |

<< K >>

| | |
|--------------|-----|
| Kansas | 65 |
| Kansas State | 64 |
| Kent State | 129 |
| Kentucky | 104 |

<< L >>

| | |
|---------------------|-----|
| Lafayette | 154 |
| La Salle | 151 |
| Lehigh | 154 |
| Liberty | 147 |
| Louisiana State | 105 |
| Louisiana Tech | 116 |
| Louisiana-Lafayette | 136 |
| Louisiana-Monroe | 135 |
| Louisville | 36 |

<< M >>

| | |
|----------------|-----|
| Maine | 144 |
| Marist | 151 |
| Marshall | 76 |
| Maryland | 27 |
| Massachusetts | 144 |
| McNeese State | 157 |
| Memphis | 75 |
| Miami (FL) | 30 |
| Miami (OH) | 127 |
| Michigan | 44 |
| Michigan State | 52 |

| | |
|--------------------------|-----|
| Middle Tennessee | 137 |
| Minnesota | 53 |
| Mississippi | 111 |
| Mississippi State | 111 |
| Mississippi Valley State | 159 |
| Missouri | 65 |
| Monmouth | 152 |
| Montana | 146 |
| Montana State | 146 |
| Morehead State | 155 |
| Morgan State | 158 |
| Murray State | 153 |

<< N >>

| | |
|----------|-----|
| Navy | 140 |
| Nebraska | 61 |
| Nevada | 115 |

<< H >>

| | |
|----------------------|-----|
| New Hampshire | 144 |
| New Mexico | 122 |
| New Mexico State | 117 |
| Nicholls State | 157 |
| Norfolk State | 158 |
| North Carolina | 34 |
| North Carolina A&T | 158 |
| North Carolina State | 26 |
| North Dakota State | 149 |
| North Texas | 134 |
| Northeastern | 144 |
| Northern Arizona | 146 |
| Northern Colorado | 149 |
| Northern Illinois | 131 |
| Northern Iowa | 148 |
| Northwestern | 55 |
| Northwestern State | 157 |
| Notre Dame | 138 |

<< O >>

| | |
|----------------|-----|
| Ohio | 129 |
| Ohio State | 48 |
| Oklahoma | 68 |
| Oklahoma State | 72 |
| Oregon | 86 |
| Oregon State | 94 |

<< P >>

| | |
|------------------|-----|
| Penn | 150 |
| Penn State | 54 |
| Pittsburgh | 37 |
| Portland State | 146 |
| Prairie View A&M | 159 |
| Princeton | 150 |
| Purdue | 46 |

<< R >>

| | |
|-------------------|-----|
| Rhode Island | 144 |
| Rice | 81 |
| Richmond | 144 |
| Robert Morris | 152 |
| Rutgers | 41 |
| Sacramento State | 146 |
| Sacred Heart | 152 |
| St. Francis (PA) | 152 |
| St. Peter's (NJ) | 151 |
| Sam Houston State | 157 |
| Samford | 153 |
| San Diego | 155 |
| San Diego State | 125 |
| San Jose State | 116 |
| South Carolina | 103 |

<< S >>

| | |
|--------------------------|-----|
| South Carolina State | 158 |
| South Dakota State | 149 |
| South Florida | 40 |
| Southeast Missouri | 153 |
| Southeastern Louisiana | 157 |
| Southern | 159 |
| Southern California | 84 |
| Southern Illinois | 148 |
| Southern Methodist | 81 |
| Southern Mississippi | 74 |
| Southern Utah | 149 |
| Southwest Missouri State | 148 |
| Stanford | 95 |
| Stephen F. Austin | 157 |
| Stony Brook | 152 |
| Syracuse | 40 |

<< T >>

| | |
|------------------|-----|
| Temple | 141 |
| Tennessee | 98 |
| Tennessee-Martin | 153 |
| Tennessee State | 153 |
| Tennessee Tech | 153 |
| Texas | 66 |
| Texas A&M | 70 |
| Texas Christian | 123 |
| Texas Southern | 159 |
| Texas State | 157 |
| Texas Tech | 71 |
| Toledo | 130 |
| Towson | 144 |
| Troy State | 135 |
| Tulane | 80 |
| Tulsa | 80 |

<< U >>

| | |
|------------|-----|
| UCLA | 88 |
| UNLV | 125 |
| Utah | 120 |
| Utah State | 118 |
| UTEP | 78 |

<< V >>

| | |
|-------------------|-----|
| Valparaiso | 155 |
| Vanderbilt | 104 |
| Villanova | 144 |
| Virginia | 32 |
| Virginia Military | 147 |
| Virginia Tech | 28 |

<< W >>

| | |
|------------------|-----|
| Wagner | 152 |
| Wake Forest | 27 |
| Washington | 94 |
| Washington State | 93 |
| Weber State | 146 |
| West Virginia | 38 |
| Western Carolina | 156 |
| Western Illinois | 148 |
| Western Kentucky | 148 |
| Western Michigan | 132 |
| William & Mary | 144 |
| Wisconsin | 56 |
| Wofford | 156 |
| Wyoming | 121 |
| Yale | 150 |
| Youngstown State | 148 |

Street & Smith's[®] 2005 YEARBOOK COLLEGE FOOTBALL

MIKE KALLAY Publisher

EDITORIAL

SCOTT SMITH Editor

KEITH WOOD Creative Director

JONATHAN WOOG Copy Chief

MERISSA JONES Graphic Designer

MATT MCKENZIE Reporter/Copy Editor

CHRISTOPHER SOLOY Contributing Designer

CONTRIBUTORS

DOUG HUFF, SCOTT RABALAIS, JEFF WHITE,
PETE WILLIAMS, JACK EBLING,
JIMMIE TRAMEL, JON WILNER, MARK GOMEZ,
LOREN JORGENSEN, JON WAGNER,
TOMMY HICKS, AL LESAR, JOHN O'CONNOR,
GARY MCCANN, RANDY REINHARDT,
CHUCK NEWMAN, STEVE AMEDIO,
MICHAEL GRANT, ED LAUBACH,
STAN OLSON, BILL SMITH, LUT WILLIAMS,
GREGG DEWALT, MIKE GOENS,
TONY JIMENEZ, JIM CARLEY

ADVERTISING

PATRICK WOOD

Director of Advertising

704-973-1358

pwood@amcity.com

AMY TAYLOR

Senior Marketing Manager

Street & Smith's Sports Group

704-973-1318

altaylor@amcity.com

SCOTT A. MILLER

Miller Media Development Group LLC

248-601-7355

scott@millermedia-dg.com

CIRCULATION

JIM PENEKAR General Manager

STEVE BRADLEY Sales Manager

ADMINISTRATION

RAY SHAW Chairman

WHITNEY SHAW President

KIRK SHAW Vice President/Operations

ROB FISHER Vice President/CFO

MARY LYNN BARANOWSKI Controller

KELLY SHAVER Accounting Manager

MARYLOU MILLHAUSER

Director of Human Resources

JENNIFER WARREN

Accounting Coordinator

DEBBIE HARLEY, RENEE MALDONADO

Accounts Receivable Administrators

JUNE 2005

A Street & Smith's Sports Group Publication

Street & Smith's[®] SPORTS ANNUALS

"America's Sports Bible for Previews and Predictions"



120 West Morehead Street, Suite 230

Charlotte, NC 28202-1844

704-973-1300 (main switchboard)

704-973-1575 (24-hour voice mail)

704-973-1576 (fax)

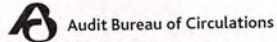
800-380-7404 (to subscribe/for back issues)

e-mail: annuals@streetandsmiths.com

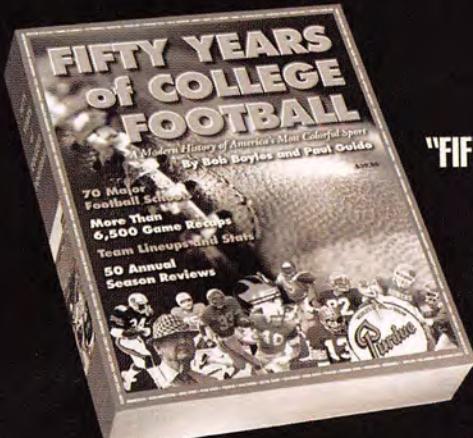
Web site: www.streetandsmiths.com

COURTESY: MICHAEL HOWAN

© 2005 Street & Smith's Sports Group,
all rights reserved. Street & Smith's is a registered trademark
of American City Business Journals Inc.



AT A HEFTY 1088 PAGES,
THE ONLY THING HARDER TO PICK UP
IS A CHEERLEADER.



"FIFTY YEARS OF COLLEGE FOOTBALL" IS A "MUST-HAVE" FOR DIE-HARDS,
EXPERTS AND VIRTUALLY EVERY COLLEGE BALL FAN ON EARTH!

Get your very own copy. Order this
most complete, entertaining and
comprehensive encyclopedia of
college football ever!

Send check for \$43.95 (\$39.95 plus \$s&h) to:

Sideline Communications

P.O. Box 2990, Wilmington, DE 19805

Or visit www.50YearsOfFootball.com

contents

**ABSOLUTELY
FREE!!**

Receive these
FREE gifts from
ATS Consultants!!



ATS SportsPager

Now only pennies a day.
Get a FREE Brochure!



ATS Consultants'
2005 Ultimate Football Annuals
Choose from one of these 3!!



ATS
Consultants'
Weekly Review
the nations #1 rated
Sports Investing
Journal.
Receive
5 FREE issues.

ATS
Consultants'
2005 Official
International
Football Rotation
Schedule.
Receive all
6 issues for FREE.



Just call

Ask for operator #1052

I-800-772-1287

or visit us at

www.atswins.com

CONFERENCE PREVIEWS

DIVISION I-A

- 20** ACC
- 35** Big East
- 42** Big Ten
- 58** Big 12
- 73** Conference USA
- 82** PAC-10
- 96** SEC
- 112** WAC
- 119** Mountain West
- 126** Mid-American
- 133** Sun Belt
- 138** Independents

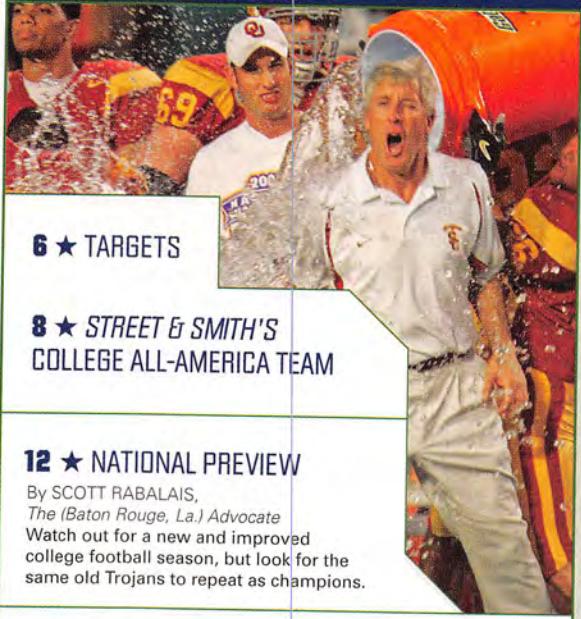
DIVISION I-AA

- 142** Overview
- 144** Atlantic 10
- 146** Big Sky
- 147** Big South
- 148** Gateway
- 149** Great West
- 150** Ivy League
- 151** Metro Atlantic
- 152** Northeast
- 153** Ohio Valley
- 154** Patriot League
- 155** Pioneer League
- 156** Southern
- 157** Southland
- 158** MEAC
- 159** SWAC

SMALL COLLEGE

- 160** Division II
- 164** Division III

COVERS:
NEW ENGLAND: Mathias Kiwanuka - Paul Jasieniak; inset: Cornell Brockington - Tomasso Derosa, cheer: Dale Barbee; NORTHEAST: Damien Rhodes - Tomasso Derosa, inset: Clark Harris and cheer - Paul Jasieniak; NORTH ATLANTIC: Jahmille Addae - Tomasso Derosa, cheer: Steve Beyer; MID-ATLANTIC: Ahmad Brooks - Tomasso Derosa, Darryl Tapp - Ed Purcell, D'Qwell Jackson - Randy Litzinger, cheer: Jeff Fishbein; SOUTH ATLANTIC: Steve Spurrier - Vern Verna / AP Wire, inset: Marie Williams - Tomasso Derosa, cheer: Dale Barbee; SOUTHEAST: Travis Williams - Bob Leverone / Sporting News / Zuma Press / US Presswire, DeAngelo Williams - Joe Murphy / Wire Image.com, cheer: Wesley Hitt; DEEP SOUTH: Laron Landry - David Durochik, inset: Jerious Norwood and cheer - Steve Beyer; FLORIDA: Chris Leak - Joe Robbins, inset: Leon Washington - Dennis Hubbard, cheer: Paul Jasieniak; TEXAS: Vince Young - Wesley Hitt, Reggie McNeal - Ronald Martinez / Getty Images, Jamario Thomas - Douglas C. Pizac / AP Wide World Photos, cheer: Doug Hollerman; MIDEAST: Ted Ginn Jr. - Andy Lyons / Getty Images, insets: Ron Zook - Mark Cowan / Icon SMI, Charlie Weis - Matt Cashore / US Presswire, cheer: Paul Jasieniak; MIDWEST: Michael Hart - Bruce Schwartzman, Laurence Maroney and cheer - Steve Beyer; ROCKIES / PLAINS: Adrian Peterson - Brian Spurlock / US Presswire, inset: Charles Gordon - G. Newman Lowrance, cheer: Doug Hollerman; MIDLANDS: Brad Smith - Bruce Schwartzman, Drew Tate - Rob Tringali / SportsChrome, inset: Bill Callahan - John Williamson, cheer: Scott Boehm; SOUTHWEST: Derek Hagan and cheer - Steve Beyer, inset: DonTrell Moore - Paul Jasieniak; FAR WEST: Reggie Bush - Joe Robbins, inset: Spencer Hawley - Steve Beyer, cheer: David Durochik / SportPics; PACIFIC NORTHWEST: Mike Hass - Steve Beyer, inset: Jared Zabransky and cheer - Paul Jasieniak; EASTERN PA: Tamia Hall and cheer - Dale Barbee



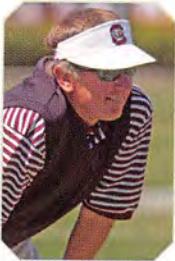
6★ TARGETS

8★ STREET & SMITH'S COLLEGE ALL-AMERICA TEAM

12★ NATIONAL PREVIEW

By SCOTT RABALAIS,
The (Baton Rouge, La.) Advocate

Watch out for a new and improved college football season, but look for the same old Trojans to repeat as champions.



18★ 20 QUESTIONS WITH... SOUTH CAROLINA COACH STEVE SPURRIER

By MATT MCKENZIE, Street & Smith's
When he spent a year away from coaching football—his first in more than 20 years—Steve Spurrier thought to himself, "Maybe this is what I want to do."

168★ JUCO REPORT

172★ NATIONAL RECRUITING REPORT

By DOUG HUFF

Bobby Bowden's FSU Seminoles were the big winners in our look back at the 2004-05 recruiting race.

174★ STREET & SMITH'S 24TH ANNUAL HIGH SCHOOL ALL-AMERICA TEAM

By DOUG HUFF

The power states of California, Florida and Texas demonstrate their quality and quantity of talent in our look at the nation's top high school football players.

182★ 2004 NCAA FINAL STATS

186★ 2004 SEASON RECAP

190★ DIVISION I-AA SCHEDULES

196★ BOWL SCHEDULE

**Here's My Record
Where Everybody
Can See It!**

Last year Jimmy Vacarro
hit 18-7 (72%) in the
pre-season!

| | | |
|-----------------------|-------|---|
| Redskins (-1) Broncs | 20-17 | W |
| Redskins/Broncos 134 | 20-17 | L |
| Bears (-3½) Rams | 13-10 | W |
| Giants (-2½) Chiefs | 34-24 | W |
| Cards (+3½) Vikings | 6-23 | L |
| Texans (-3) Dallas | 18-0 | W |
| Bills (+3) Broncos | 16-6 | W |
| Giants (+3½) Cards | 20-27 | L |
| Jaguars (-3) Bucs | 14-6 | W |
| Falcons (-1) Vikings | 27-24 | W |
| Ravens (+3) Eagles | 17-26 | L |
| Jets (+4½) Colts | 31-7 | W |
| 49'ers (+3) Bears | 13-20 | L |
| Chargers (+3) Cards | 38-13 | W |
| Rams/Chiefs 141 | 7-24 | L |
| Steelers (+3) Eagles | 27-21 | W |
| S'hawks (-3) Chargers | 26-20 | W |
| Raiders (-3) Cards | 17-16 | L |
| VaTech (+17½) USC | 13-24 | W |
| Ravens (-4) Lions | 17-6 | W |
| Ravens/Lions 135½ | 17-6 | W |
| Titans (+4) Dallas | 17-20 | W |
| Jaguars (-3) Pats | 31-0 | W |
| Arizona (+6) Denver | 33-21 | W |
| Ravens (+3) Giants | 27-17 | W |

Then exploded Opening Day Going 5-1 for 80%

| | | |
|------------------------|-------|---|
| N'Wstrn (+6½) TCU | 45-48 | W |
| Memphis (+3) Miss | 20-13 | W |
| Rutgers (+4) MichSt | 19-14 | W |
| Calif. (-14) Air Force | 56-14 | W |
| Cinci (+14) Ohio St | 6-27 | L |
| FresnoSt (+2) Wash | 35-16 | W |

...Hit 6-2 in Week 2

| | | |
|------------------------|-------|---|
| Lions (+3) Bears | 20-16 | W |
| Vikes (-5½) Dallas | 35-17 | W |
| 49'ers (+3½) Falcons | 19-21 | W |
| Utah (-14) Arizona | 23-6 | W |
| GaTech (+7) Clemson | 28-24 | W |
| Colo (-3) Wash St | 20-12 | W |
| Penn St (-4) Bost Coll | 7-21 | L |
| Texas (-11) Arkansas | 22-20 | L |

... 7-2 in Week 3

| | | |
|-----------------------|-------|---|
| Jack'ville (+3) Den. | 7-6 | W |
| Dallas (-4½) Cleve. | 19-12 | W |
| Baltimore (-4) Pitts. | 30-13 | W |
| NC State (-4) Ohio St | 14-22 | L |
| Arizona (+9) Wisc. | 7-9 | W |
| UCLA (Pk) Wash | 37-31 | W |
| SD State (+20) Mich | 21-24 | W |
| Nevada (-18) Buffalo | 38-13 | W |
| UAB (+21) Florida St | 7-34 | L |

... and 6-2 in Week 4

| | | |
|------------------------|-------|---|
| Cowboys (+1½) Skins | 21-18 | W |
| Saints (+6) Rams | 28-25 | W |
| Raiders (-3½) Bucs | 30-20 | W |
| Texans (+7½) Chiefs | 24-21 | W |
| Jaguars (-6½) Jaguars | 12-15 | L |
| Ariz St (-8) Oreg St | 27-14 | W |
| Louisville (-7½) NoCar | 34-0 | W |
| B.C. (-1) Wake Forest | 14-17 | L |

If History Repeats Itself...

You Get Rich!



**My August-September total was
41-14-1 for 74.5%! (27 net winners)**

I Guarantee You A Repeat This Year.

You Must Make MegaBucks

The program starts with The American Bowl, Sat Aug 6th (Tokyo) Falcons vs Colts and the Hall of Fame Game Mon Aug 8th (Canton OH) Bears vs Dolphins – followed by a stream of pre-season winners. After an awesome August, roll your profits over in September. In all you'll receive around 60 games. By Sept 30th you **MUST** have gone at least 74.5% and cleared 27 net winners or you get **OCTOBER THRU DECEMBER FREE**.

Costs only \$99, which you can make back with a single play –thereafter it's sheer gravy! Don't risk losing out if we're over-subscribed.

Who Is Jimmy Vaccaro?

Walk into any sports book in the world – Vegas, the offshores, the UK - Jimmy Vaccaro is The Man. For 23 years he ran the biggest books in Vegas as linesmaker and for the last six years he has beaten those same books as a bettor.

The key for Jimmy is that he knows the true number – where the line should be, where it starts, where it will wind up.

So he knows which games are giving us the most points and are the best games to bet and make money on!

Jimmy is the answer you hoped for but never thought you'd find: A proven winner who stands at the top of his profession and is now ready to give you the most profitable football year of your life! Call now!

Here's What Others Have To Say...

"Vaccaro does daily battle with the sharks. The limits are high and so is the action."

Art Manteris, Linesmaker the Station Group of Casinos

"The most influential linesmaker of the past 25 years."

Steven Nover
The Las Vegas Review Journal

**Call Toll Free:
1-888-546-4875
and start getting rich!**

or online at: www.jimmyvaccaro.com

Jimmy is featured in leading sports websites like www.vegassportsmasters.com, www.sportsnetwork.com, www.bettorsreport.com, and more!

A look at college football's all-time I-A leaders and this year's players looking to challenge them

TARGETS

TOUCHDOWNS

| | |
|--|-----------|
| Travis Prentice, Miami (Ohio) | 78 |
| Ricky Williams, Texas | 75 |
| Howard Stevens, Louisville | 69 |
| Brock Forsey, Boise State | 68 |
| Cedric Benson, Texas | 67 |
| Anthony Thompson, Indiana | 65 |
| Ron Dayne, Wisconsin | 63 |
| Marshall Faulk, San Diego State | 62 |
| Eric Crouch, Nebraska | 59 |
| Knocking on the door (active career leaders) | |
| TAUREAN HENDERSON, Texas Tech | 47 |
| DONTRELL MOORE, New Mexico | 37 |
| DEANGELO WILLIAMS, Memphis | 34 |

POINTS

| | |
|--|------------|
| Travis Prentice, Miami (Ohio) | 468 |
| Ricky Williams, Texas | 452 |
| Roman Anderson, Houston | 423 |
| Howard Stevens, Louisville | 418 |
| Billy Bennett, Georgia | 409 |
| Brock Forsey, Boise State | 408 |
| Cedric Benson, Texas | 404 |
| Carlos Huerta, Miami (Fla.) | 397 |
| Jason Elam, Hawaii | 395 |
| Anthony Thompson, Indiana | 394 |
| Nick Novak, Maryland | 393 |
| Derek Schmidt, Florida St. | 393 |
| Kris Brown, Nebraska | 388 |
| Ron Dayne, Wisconsin | 378 |
| Marshall Faulk, San Diego State | 376 |
| Xavier Beitia, Florida State | 375 |
| Eric Crouch, Nebraska | 374 |
| Shayne Graham, Virginia Tech | 371 |
| Jeff Hall, Tennessee | 371 |
| Knocking on the door (active career leaders) | |
| TREY DICARLO, Oklahoma | 306 |
| TAUREAN HENDERSON, Texas Tech | 282 |
| STEPHEN GOSTKOWSKI, Memphis | 268 |

TOUCHDOWN PASSES

| | |
|--|------------|
| Dusty Bonner, Kentucky | 123 |
| Ty Detmer, Brigham Young | 121 |
| Timmy Chang, Hawaii | 117 |
| Tim Rattay, Louisiana Tech | 115 |
| Danny Wuerffel, Florida | 114 |
| Chad Pennington, Marshall | 110 |
| Kliff Kingsbury, Texas Tech | 95 |
| Philip Rivers, North Carolina State | 95 |
| Doug Williams, Grambling | 93 |
| David Klingler, Houston | 91 |
| Peyton Manning, Tennessee | 89 |
| Troy Kopp, Pacific | 87 |
| Tim Lester, Western Mich. | 87 |
| Luke McCown, Louisiana Tech | 87 |
| Ken Dorsey, Miami (Fla.) | 86 |
| Andrew Walter, Arizona State | 85 |
| Knocking on the door (active career leaders) | |
| MATT LEINART, Southern California | 71 |
| BRUCE GRADKOWSKI, Toledo | 56 |
| PAUL PINEGAR, Fresno State | 54 |

PASSING YARDS

| | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------|
| Timmy Chang, Hawaii | 17,072 |
| Ty Detmer, Brigham Young | 15,031 |
| Philip Rivers, North Carolina State | 13,484 |
| Tim Rattay, Louisiana Tech | 12,746 |
| Luke McCown, Louisiana Tech | 12,666 |
| Chris Redman, Louisville | 12,541 |
| Kliff Kingsbury, Texas Tech | 12,429 |
| Chad Pennington, Marshall | 12,348 |
| David Greene, Georgia | 11,528 |
| Gino Guidugli, Cincinnati | 11,453 |
| Todd Santos, San Diego State | 11,425 |
| Daunte Culpepper, UCF | 11,412 |
| Carson Palmer, Southern California | 11,388 |
| Tim Lester, Western Michigan | 11,299 |
| Derek Anderson, Oregon State | 11,249 |
| Peyton Manning, Tennessee | 11,201 |
| Eric Zeier, Georgia | 11,153 |
| Charlie Frye, Akron | 11,049 |
| Ryan Schneider, UCF | 10,976 |
| Alex Van Pelt, Pittsburgh | 10,913 |
| Drew Brees, Purdue | 10,909 |
| David Neill, Nevada | 10,903 |
| Danny Wuerffel, Florida | 10,875 |
| Ben Roethlisberger, Miami (Ohio) | 10,829 |
| Dan Orlovsky, Connecticut | 10,706 |
| Kevin Sweeney, Fresno State | 10,623 |
| Andrew Walter, Arizona State | 10,617 |
| Doug Flutie, Boston College | 10,579 |
| Dusty Bonner, Kentucky | 10,501 |
| Jared Lorenzen, Kentucky | 10,354 |
| Brian McClure, Bowling Green | 10,258 |
| Troy Kopp, Pacific | 10,257 |
| Danny Wimprine, Memphis | 10,215 |
| Eli Manning, Mississippi | 10,119 |
| Glenn Foley, Boston College | 10,042 |
| Cade McNown, UCLA | 10,008 |

Knocking on the door (active career leaders)

| | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------|
| CHARLIE WHITEHURST, Clemson | 7,182 |
| BRETT BASANEZ, Northwestern | 6,958 |
| MATT LEINART, Southern California | 6,878 |

RUSHING YARDAGE

| | |
|------------------------------------|--------------|
| Ron Dayne, Wisconsin | 6,397 |
| Ricky Williams, Texas | 6,279 |
| Tony Dorsett, Pittsburgh | 6,082 |
| Charles White, Southern California | 5,598 |
| Travis Prentice, Miami (Ohio) | 5,596 |
| Cedric Benson, Texas | 5,540 |
| Howard Stevens, Louisville | 5,297 |
| LaDainian Tomlinson, TCU | 5,263 |
| Herschel Walker, Georgia | 5,259 |
| Archie Griffin, Ohio State | 5,177 |
| Darren Lewis, Texas A&M | 5,012 |
| Darren Sproles, Kansas State | 4,979 |
| Anthony Thompson, Indiana | 4,965 |
| George Rogers, South Carolina | 4,958 |
| Trevor Cobb, Rice | 4,948 |
| Michael Turner, Northern Illinois | 4,941 |
| Paul Palmer, Temple | 4,895 |

Knocking on the door (active career leaders)

| | |
|----------------------------|--------------|
| DEANGELO WILLIAMS, Memphis | 4,062 |
| DONTRELL MOORE, New Mexico | 3,675 |
| BRAD SMITH, Missouri | 2,988 |

RECEPTIONS

| | |
|--|------------|
| Taylor Stubblefield, Purdue | 316 |
| Josh Davis, Marshall | 306 |
| Arnold Jackson, Louisville | 300 |
| Trevor Insley, Nevada | 298 |
| Geoff Noisy, Nevada | 295 |
| Rashaun Woods, Oklahoma St. | 293 |
| Troy Edwards, Louisiana Tech | 280 |
| Darius Watts, Marshall | 272 |
| Aaron Turner, Pacific | 266 |
| Chad Mackey, Louisiana Tech | 264 |
| Terance Mathis, New Mexico | 263 |
| Mark Templeton, Long Beach State | 262 |
| J.R. Tolver, San Diego State | 262 |
| Howard Twilley, Tulsa | 261 |
| Marcus Harris, Wyoming | 259 |
| Wes Welker, Texas Tech | 259 |
| Braylon Edwards, Michigan | 252 |
| John Standeford, Purdue | 249 |
| Nate Burleson, Nevada | 248 |
| James Jordan, Louisiana Tech | 246 |
| David Williams, Illinois | 245 |
| Troy Walters, Stanford | 244 |
| Roy Williams, Texas | 241 |
| Brandon Stokley, La.-Lafayette | 241 |
| Chad Owens, Hawaii | 239 |
| Kendall Newson, Middle Tenn. State | 238 |
| Dante Ridgeway, Ball State | 238 |
| Reggie Williams, Washington | 238 |
| TAUREAN HENDERSON, Texas Tech | 236 |
| Marc Zeno, Tulane | 236 |
| Steve Neal, Western Michigan | 235 |
| Jason Wolf, Southern Methodist | 235 |
| Knocking on the door (active career leaders) | |
| DEREK HAGAN, Arizona State | 181 |
| JOVON BOUKNIGHT, Wyoming | 173 |

RECEIVING YARDS

| | |
|--|--------------|
| Trevor Insley, Nevada | 5,005 |
| Marcus Harris, Wyoming | 4,518 |
| Rashaun Woods, Oklahoma State | 4,412 |
| Ryan Yarborough, Wyoming | 4,357 |
| Troy Edwards, Louisiana Tech | 4,352 |
| Aaron Turner, Pacific | 4,345 |
| Terance Mathis, New Mexico | 4,254 |
| Geoff Noisy, Nevada | 4,249 |
| Darius Watts, Marshall | 4,031 |
| Troy Walters, Stanford | 3,986 |
| Josh Davis, Marshall | 3,884 |
| Roy Williams, Texas | 3,866 |
| Chad Mackey, Louisiana Tech | 3,789 |
| Marc Zeno, Tulane | 3,725 |
| Brandon Stokley, La.-Lafayette | 3,702 |
| Arnold Jackson, Louisville | 3,670 |
| John Standeford, Purdue | 3,618 |
| Knocking on the door (active career leaders) | |
| DEREK HAGAN, Arizona State | 2,729 |
| JOVON BOUKNIGHT, Wyoming | 2,510 |

INTERCEPTIONS

| | |
|--|-----------|
| Al Brosky, Illinois | 29 |
| Martin Bayless, Bowling Green | 27 |
| John Provost, Holy Cross | 27 |
| Knocking on the door (active career leaders) | |
| JOVON JOHNSON, Iowa | 14 |
| WILLIE HUGHLEY, Florida | 11 |



AUTOGLOVE is the first and only automotive hood cover that will cover and protect the entire hood of your car. The new space-age AUTOGLOVE material will not damage paint like traditional nose bras do.

The AUTOGLOVE installs in five minutes and looks as if you custom painted your hood. The AUTOGLOVE can be removed in less than three minutes and is machine washable. It can be removed, washed and reinstalled time after time.

The AUTOGLOVE will transform your car's hood into a custom piece of art or a game-day booster billboard (your favorite college will be available soon), and it will protect your hood from the elements.

Remember, if it does not fit like a glove, it is not AUTOGLOVE!



For more information call us at:
1-615-385-7862



909 Division St. • NASHVILLE TN 37203

AUTOGLOVE is a registered trademark, PAT. PEND.

Street & Smith's

ALL★AMERICANS

<<< FIRST TEAM ★ Offense >>>

RB

Adrian Peterson
So. | Oklahoma

RB

Reggie Bush
Jr. | USC

WR

Jarrett Hicks
Jr. | Texas Tech

QB

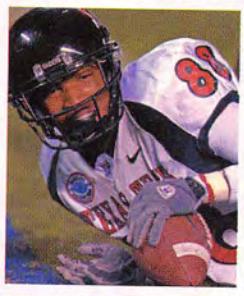
Matt Leinart
Sr. | USC



RB

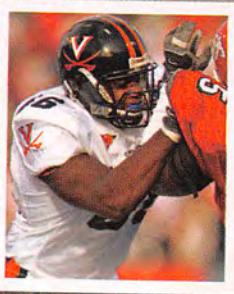


WR



OL

D'Brickshaw Ferguson
Sr. | Virginia



OL

Jonathan Scott
Sr. | Texas



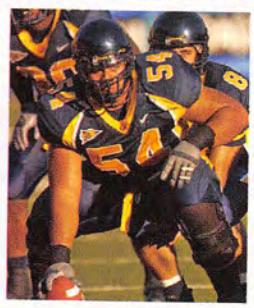
OL

Marcus McNeill
Sr. | Auburn



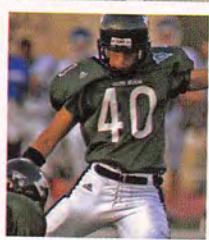
OL

Marvin Philip
Sr. | California



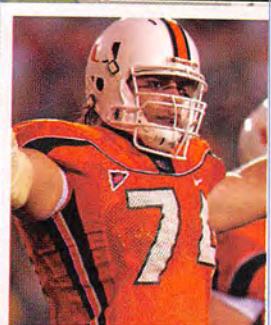
PK

Andrew Wellock
Jr. | E. Michigan



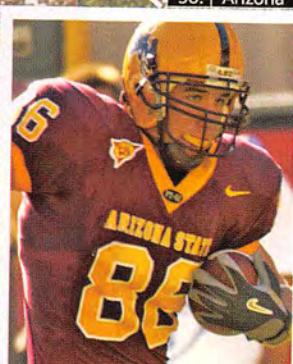
OL

Eric Winston
Sr. | Miami



TE

Zach Miller
So. | Arizona



KR

Devin Hester
Jr. | Miami



<<<< FIRST TEAM ★ Defense >>>>

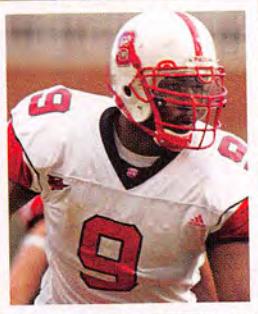
DL

Rodrique Wright
Sr. | Texas

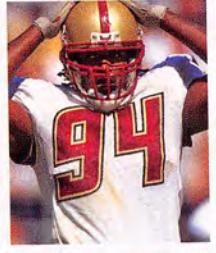


DL

Mario Williams
Jr. | N.C. State

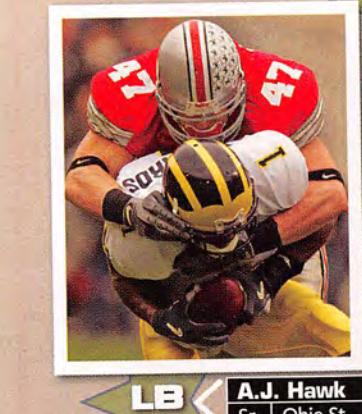


Mathias Kiwanuka
Sr. | Boston College



DL

Jesse Mahelona
Sr. | Tennessee



LB

A.J. Hawk
Sr. | Ohio St.

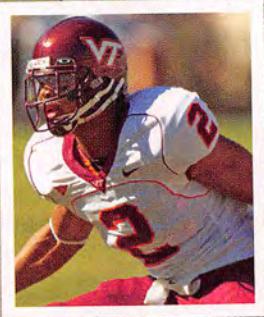
LB

Spencer Havner
Sr. | UCLA



DB

Jimmy Williams
Sr. | Virginia Tech



DB

Darrell Brooks
Sr. | Arizona



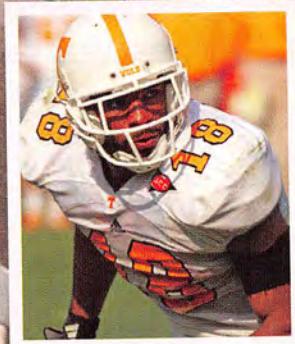
LB

Ahmad Brooks
Jr. | Virginia



DB

Jason Allen
Sr. | Tennessee



DB

Darnell Bing
Jr. | USC



P

Daniel Sepulveda
Jr. | Baylor



SECOND TEAM

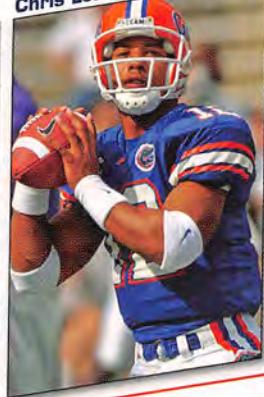
★ OFFENSE

| | |
|----|--------------------------------|
| QB | Chris Leak JR Florida |
| RB | Laurence Maroney JR Minnesota |
| RB | DeAngelo Williams SR Memphis |
| WR | Santonio Holmes SR Ohio State |
| WR | Calvin Johnson SO Georgia Tech |
| OL | Max Jean-Gilles SR Georgia |
| OL | Davin Joseph SR Oklahoma |
| OL | Greg Eslinger SR Minnesota |
| OL | Matt Lentz SR Michigan |
| OL | Travis Leffew SR Louisville |
| OL | Marcedes Lewis SR UCLA |
| TE | Brandon Pace JR Virginia Tech |
| PK | Ted Ginn SO Ohio State |
| KR | |

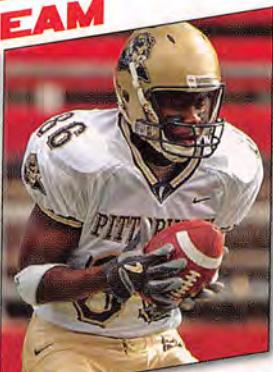
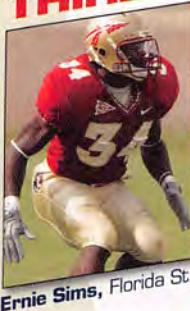
★ DEFENSE

| | |
|----|----------------------------------|
| DL | Nick Leaders SR Iowa State |
| DL | Haloti Ngata JR Oregon |
| DL | Darryl Tapp SR Virginia Tech |
| DL | Gabe Watson SR Michigan |
| LB | Tim McGarigle, SR Northwestern |
| LB | Travis Williams SR Auburn |
| LB | D'Qwell Jackson SR Maryland |
| DB | Michael Huff SR Texas |
| DB | Jarrad Page SR UCLA |
| DB | Anthony Smith SR Syracuse |
| DB | Roman Harper SR Alabama |
| P | Brandon Fields SR Michigan State |

Chris Leak, Florida



THIRD TEAM



Ernie Sims, Florida St.

Greg Lee, Pittsburgh

★ OFFENSE

| | |
|----|--------------------------------|
| QB | Vince Young JR Texas |
| RB | Michael Hart SO Michigan |
| RB | DonTrell Moore SR New Mexico |
| WR | Greg Lee JR Pittsburgh |
| WR | Nichiren Flowers SR Nevada |
| OL | Dan Mozes JR West Virginia |
| OL | Andrew Whitworth SR LSU |
| OL | Nick Mangold SR Ohio State |
| OL | Ryan O'Callaghan SR California |
| OL | Grayling Love SR Arizona State |
| TE | Leonard Pope JR Georgia |
| PK | Mason Crosby JR Colorado |
| KR | Maurice Drew JR UCLA |

★ DEFENSE

| | |
|----|------------------------------------|
| DL | Tommy Jackson SR Auburn |
| DL | Steve Fifita SR Utah |
| DL | Dusty Dvoracek SR Oklahoma |
| DL | Elvis Dumervil SR Louisville |
| LB | Ernie Sims JR Florida State |
| LB | H.B. Blades JR Pittsburgh |
| LB | Brandon Siler SO Florida |
| DB | Alan Zemaitis SR Penn State |
| DB | Charles Gordon JR Kansas |
| DB | Ko Simpson SO South Carolina |
| DB | Antonio Cromartie JR Florida State |
| P | John Torp SR Colorado |

HONORABLE MENTION

QUARTERBACKS

Drew Tate SO Iowa
 Brad Smith SR Missouri
 Reggie McNeal SR Texas A&M
 Donovan Woods SO Oklahoma St.
 Jared Zabransky JR Boise St.
 Bret Meyer SO Iowa St.
 Kellen Clemens SR Oregon
 Omar Jacobs JR Bowling Green
 Tyler Palko SR Pittsburgh
 Brodie Croyle SR Alabama
 Brian Brohm SO Louisville
 Chad Henne SO Michigan
 Joel Klatt SR Colorado
 Michael Robinson SR Penn St.
 Darrell Hackney SR UAB
 Drew Stanton JR Michigan St.
 Bruce Gradkowski SR Toledo
 Paul Pinegar SR Fresno St.
 Jordan Palmer SR UTEP

RUNNING BACKS

Mike Bell SR Arizona
 Jamario Thomas SO North Texas
 Marshawn Lynch SO California
 Chris Barclay SR Wake Forest
 Gerald Riggs Jr. SR Tennessee
 Jerious Norwood SR Mississippi St.
 Leon Washington SR Florida St.
 Lawrence Vickers SR Colorado
 J.D. Runnels SR Oklahoma
 Pierre Thomas JR Illinois
 Matt Bernstein SR Wisconsin
 Alley Broussard JR LSU
 Stevie Hicks JR Iowa St.
 Lonta Hobbs SR TCU
 Brian Leonard SR Rutgers
 Terrence Whitehead SR Oregon

Bryson Sumlin SR Fresno St.

Cory Ross SR Nebraska
 Garrett Wolfe JR Northern Illinois
 Curtis Brown JR BYU
 Andre Hall SR USF
 Lynell Hamilton SO San Diego St.

WIDE RECEIVERS

Travis Wilson SR Oklahoma
 Derek Hagan SR Arizona St.
 Jason Avant SR Michigan
 Jason Hill JR Wash. St.
 David Anderson SR Colorado St.
 Tres Moses SR Rutgers
 Glen Holt SR Kentucky
 Dwayne Jarrett SO USC
 Kendrick Jones SR Illinois
 Calvin Johnson SO Georgia Tech
 Todd Blythe SO Iowa St.
 Dominique Zeigler JR Baylor
 Demetrius Williams SR Oregon
 Kyle Ingraham JR Purdue
 Courtney Taylor JR Auburn
 Evan Moore JR Stanford
 Ed Hinkel JR Iowa
 Robert Meachem SO Tennessee
 Terry Richardson JR Arizona St.
 Tyrone Prothro JR Alabama
 Mark Philmore SR Northwestern
 Cory Rodgers JR TCU
 Steve Smith JR USC
 Vincent Marshall SR Houston
 Todd Watkins SR BYU
 Marcus Monk SO Arkansas
 Jeff Webb SR San Diego St.
 Jayson Swain JR Tennessee
 Yamon Figurs JR Kansas St.
 Jovon Bouknight SR Wyoming

TIGHT ENDS

David Thomas SR Texas
 Tim Day SR Oregon
 Joe Klopfenstein SR Colorado
 Jeff King SR Virginia Tech
 Joe Newton JR Oregon St.
 David Jones SR LSU
 Charles Davis SR Purdue
 Dominique Byrd SR USC
 Matt Spaeth JR Minn.
 Cooper Wallace SR Auburn
 Matt Herian SR Nebraska
 Clark Harris SR Rutgers
 Owen Daniels SR Wisconsin
 Brent Celek JR Cincinnati

OFFENSIVE LINE

Will Montgomery SR Virginia Tech
 Sam Baker SO USC
 Chris Morris SR Michigan St.
 Cody Douglas SR Tennessee
 Mark Setterstrom SR Minn.
 Mike McCloskey SR UCLA
 Adam Stenavich SR Michigan
 Mike Degory SR Florida
 Brian Daniels JR Colorado
 Doug Free JR Northern Illinois
 Troy Reddick SR Auburn
 Nick Mihlhauser SR Wash. St.
 Joe Thomas JR Wisconsin
 Justin Blalock JR Texas
 Andrew Carneron JR California
 Mark Fenton JR Colorado
 Daryn Colledge SR Boise St.
 Donovan Ralola SR Wisconsin
 Jeremy Trueblood SR Boston Coll.
 Jimmy Martin SR Virginia Tech
 Aaron Merz SR California

Brian Ferentz JR Iowa

Jon Wilson SR Air Force
 Jason Spitz SR Louisville
 Seppo Evwaraye SR Nebraska
 Steve Vallos JR Wake Forest
 Jeff Byers SO USC
 Jake Kuresa JR BYU
 Aaron Lips SR Louisiana Tech
 Mike Elgin SO Iowa
 Toby Bullock SR Marshall
 Aaron Sears JR Tennessee
 Ryan Wendell SO Fresno St.
 Levi Brown JR Penn St.
 Aaron Grant JR Iowa St.
 Ed Blanton SR UCLA
 Zach Strief SR Northwestern
 Ryan Cook SR New Mexico
 Brandon Koch SR Nebraska
 Lance Reynolds SR BYU
 Adam Speiker SO Missouri
 Rob Warren SR Bowling Green
 Lee Gray JR Iowa
 Kyle Young JR Fresno St.
 Jeremy Clary SR Kansas St.
 Stephon Wheeler SR Michigan St.

PLACEKICKERS

Connor Hughes SR Virginia
 Justin Medlock JR UCLA
 Selvin Young JR Texas
 James Wilhoit JR Tennessee
 Matt Nuzie JR Connecticut
 Alexis Serna SO Oregon St.
 Travis Bell SO Georgia Tech
 Kyle Schlicher SO Iowa
 Stephen Gostkowski SR Memphis
 Josh Cummings SR Pittsburgh
 Deric Yaussi SR Wyoming

SPECIAL AWARDS CANDIDATES

HEISMAN TROPHY/WALTER CAMP/MAXWELL TROPHY

Matt Leinart SR USC
Adrian Peterson SO Oklahoma
Reggie Bush JR USC
Chris Leak JR Florida
Vince Young JR Texas
Laurence Maroney JR Minnesota
DeAngelo Williams SR Memphis
Michael Hart SO Michigan
LenDale White JR USC
Devin Hester JR Miami
Drew Tate SO Iowa
Mike Bell SR Arizona
Brad Smith SR Missouri
Jarrett Hicks JR Texas Tech
Reggie McNeal SR Texas A&M
Donovan Woods SO Oklahoma St.
Mike Hass SR Oregon St.

OUTLAND TROPHY/ LOMBARDI AWARD (Outstanding Lineman)

D'Brickashaw Ferguson SR Virginia
Jonathan Scott SR Texas
Rodrique Wright SR Texas
A.J. Hawk SR Ohio St.
Jesse Mahelona SR Tennessee
Spencer Havner SR UCLA
Mario Williams JR N.C. State
Mathias Kiwanuka SR Boston Coll.
Ahmad Brooks JR Virginia
Marvin Philip SR California
Marcus McNeill SR Auburn
Eric Winston SR Miami
Max Jean-Gilles SR Georgia
Davin Joseph SR Oklahoma
Nick Leaders SR Iowa St.
Greg Eslinger SR Minnesota
Matt Lenz SR Michigan
Haloti Ngata JR Oregon
Darryl Tapp SR Virginia Tech
Gabe Watson SR Michigan
Tim McGarigle SR Northwestern
Travis Williams SR Auburn
D'Qwell Jackson SR Maryland

DAVEY O'BRIEN AWARD (Outstanding Quarterback)

Matt Leinart SR USC
Chris Leak JR Florida
Vince Young JR Texas
Drew Tate SO Iowa
Brad Smith SR Missouri
Reggie McNeal SR Texas A&M
Donovan Woods SO Oklahoma St.
Jared Zabransky JR Boise St.
Bret Meyer SO Iowa St.
Kellen Clemons SR Oregon

DOAK WALKER AWARD (Outstanding Running Back)

Adrian Peterson SO Oklahoma
Reggie Bush JR USC
Laurence Maroney JR Minnesota
DeAngelo Williams SR Memphis
Michael Hart SO Michigan
LenDale White JR USC
Mike Bell SR Arizona
Jamario Thomas SO North Texas
Marshawn Lynch SO California
Chris Barclay SR Wake Forest
Gerald Riggs Jr. SR Tennessee
DonTrell Moore SR New Mexico

BILETNIKOFF AWARD (Outstanding Receiver)

Jarrett Hicks JR Texas Tech
Mike Hass SR Oregon St.
Santonio Holmes SR Ohio St.
Calvin Johnson SO Georgia Tech
Greg Lee JR Pittsburgh
Nichiren Flowers SR Nevada
Travis Wilson SR Oklahoma
Derek Hagan SR Arizona St.
Jason Avant SR Michigan
Jason Hill JR Washington St.
David Anderson SR Colorado St.
Tres Mose SR Rutgers
Glen Holt SR Kentucky
Dwayne Jarrett SO USC

BEDNARIK AWARD/ NAGURSKI AWARD (Outstanding Defensive Player)

A.J. Hawk SR Ohio St.
Spencer Havner SR UCLA
Ahmad Brooks JR Virginia
Jimmy Williams SR Virginia Tech
Darrell Brooks SR Arizona
Jason Allen SR Tennessee
Darnell Bing JR USC
Rodrique Wright SR Texas
Mathias Kiwanuka SR Boston Coll.
Jesse Mahelona SR Tennessee
Tim McGarigle SR Northwestern
Travis Williams SR Auburn
D'Qwell Jackson SR Maryland
Michael Huff SR Texas
Jarrad Page SR UCLA

BLUTHUS AWARD (Outstanding Linebacker)

A.J. Hawk SR Ohio St.
Spencer Havner SR UCLA
Ahmad Brooks JR Virginia
Tim McGarigle SR Northwestern
Travis Williams SR Auburn
D'Qwell Jackson SR Maryland
Ernie Sims JR Florida St.
H.B. Blades JR Pittsburgh
Brandon Siler SO Florida
Chad Greenway JR Iowa
Bobby Carpenter SR Ohio St.
DeMeco Ryans SR Alabama
Korey Hall JR Boise St.
Abdul Hodge JR Iowa
Moses Osemwogie SR Vanderbilt
Will Derting SR Washington St.
Paul Posluszny JR Penn St.
Freddie Roach SR Alabama
Earl Everett JR Florida
Rufus Alexander JR Oklahoma
Justin London SR UCLA
Aaron Harris SR Texas
Cole Snyder SR Idaho

THORPE AWARD (Outstanding Defensive Back)

Jimmy Williams SR Virginia Tech
Darrell Brooks SR Arizona
Jason Allen SR Tennessee
Darnell Bing JR USC
Michael Huff SR Texas
Jarrad Page SR UCLA
Anthony Smith SR Syracuse
Roman Harper SR Alabama
Alan Zemaitis SR Penn St.
Charles Gordon JR Kansas
Ko Simpson SO South Carolina
Antonio Cromartie JR Florida St.
Ashton Youboty JR Ohio St.
Pat Watkins SR Florida St.
Aaron Gipson SR Oregon
Maurice Lane SR Baylor
Eric Weddle JR Utah
Antoine Cason SO Arizona

LOU GROZA AWARD (Outstanding Kicker)

Andrew Wellock JR Eastern Mich.
Brandon Pace JR Virginia Tech
Mason Crosby JR Colorado
Connor Hughes SR Virginia
Justin Medlock JR UCLA
Selvin Young JR Texas
James Wilhoit JR Tennessee
Matt Nuzie JR Connecticut
Alexis Serna SO Oregon St.

RAY GUY AWARD (Outstanding Punter)

Daniel Sepulveda JR Baylor
Brandon Fields SR Michigan St.
John Torp SR Colorado
Steve Weatherford SR Illinois
Tom Malone SR USC
Ryan Plackemeier SR Wake Forest
Kody Bliss JR Auburn
Chris Beckman JR Tulane
Adam Podlesh JR Maryland
Eric Wilbur JR Florida
Sam Koch SR Nebraska
Adam Graessle JR Pittsburgh
Adam Brooks SR Wyoming

KICK RETURNERS

Lance Bennett JR Indiana
Michael Bumpus SO Wash. St.
Steve Breaston JR Michigan
Will Blackmon SR Boston College
Ashlan Davis SR Tulsa
Willie Andrews SR Baylor
Jeff Backes SR Northwestern
Travis Williams SO East Carolina

DEFENSIVE LINE

Brandon Mebane JR California
Larry Birdine JR Oklahoma
Devon Long SR Oregon
Orien Harris SR Miami
Claude Wroten SR LSU
James Garee SR Colorado
Stanley McClever SO Auburn
LaMarr Woodley JR Michigan
Lawrence Jackson SO USC
Parys Haralson SR Tennessee
Julian Jenkins SR Stanford
Clifton Ryan JR Michigan St.
Jonathan Lewis SR Virginia Tech
Kevin Brown JR UCLA
Kyle Williams SR LSU
Loren Howard SR Northwestern
Jordan White-Frisbee SO Wash.
McKinley Boykin SR Mississippi
Le Kevin Smith SR Nebraska
Garrett McIntyre SR Fresno St.
Anthony Montgomery SR Minn.
Babatunde Oshinowo SR Stanford
Willie Evans SR Mississippi St.
Ray Edwards JR Purdue
Xzavie Jackson JR Missouri
Manuel Wright JR USC

Quentin Groves JR Auburn

Larry Dibbles SR Texas
Larry McSwain JR UAB
James Wyche SR Syracuse
Tamba Hali SR Penn St.
Justin Harrell JR Tennessee
Dan Bausin JR Central Michigan
Scott Edmonds SR Kansas St.
Adam Roberts SR Cincinnati
Marcus West SR Memphis
Titus Adams SR Nebraska
Tim Crowder SR Texas
Matthew Rice SR Penn St.
Ryan Neill SR Rutgers

LINEBACKERS

Chad Greenway JR Iowa
Bobby Carpenter SR Ohio St.
DeMeco Ryans SR Alabama
Korey Hall JR Boise St.
Abdul Hodge JR Iowa
Moses Osemwogie SR Vanderbilt
Will Derting SR Wash. St.
Paul Posluszny JR Penn St.
Freddie Roach SR Alabama
Earl Everett JR Florida
Rufus Alexander JR Oklahoma
Justin London SR UCLA
Aaron Harris SR Texas
Cole Snyder SR Idaho
Jon Alston SR Stanford
Brian Iwuah SR Colorado
Gerris Wilkinson SR Georgia Tech
Kyle Kilian SR Indiana
Dallas Sartz SR USC
Kevin Simon SR Tennessee
Joe Lobendahn SR Wash.

Dan Connor SO Penn St.

Dale Robinson SR Arizona St.
Brandon Archer JR Kansas St.
Donnie McCleskey SR California
Trent Bray SR Oregon St.
Keon Jackson SR Toledo
Thaddeus Washington JR Colo.
Omar Gaither SR Tennessee
Quinn Pitcock JR Ohio St.
Scott Davis JR Wash. St.
Brandon Johnson SR Louisville
Cameron Jensen JR BYU
Terna Nande SR Miami (Ohio)
Spencer Toone SR Utah
Chris Moore SR East Carolina
Tim Dobbins SR Iowa St.
Kevin Schimmelmann SR Stanford
Jason Mitchell SR Tennessee
Keith Ellison SR Oregon St.
Stephen Nicholas JR USF
Anthony Cannon SR Tulane
Thomas Howard SR UTEP
Derrick Harrington JR Missouri
Jamar Williams SR Arizona St.

DEFENSIVE BACKS

Ashton Youboty JR Ohio St.
Pat Watkins SR Florida St.
Aaron Gipson SR Oregon
Maurice Lane SR Baylor
Eric Weddle JR Utah
Antoine Cason SO Arizona
Roshaun Fellows SO Tennessee
Muhammad Abdulla SR Kentucky
Bernard Pollard JR Purdue
Daymeion Hughes JR California
Charlie Peprah SR Alabama

Wesley Smith SR Memphis

Eric Smith SR Michigan St.
Harrison Smith SR California
Sabby Piscitelli JR Oregon St.
LaRon Landry JR LSU
Curtis Keyes JR Marshall
Daniel Bullocks SR Nebraska
Justin Wyatt SR USC
Richard Marshall JR Fresno St.
Nik Moser SR Iowa St.
Jason Simpson SR Missouri
Marcus Demps SR San Diego St.
Jahmille Addae SR West Virginia
Derrick Martin JR Wyoming
Antwan Allen JR Iowa
John Eubanks SR Southern Miss
Gabriel Fulbright SR New Mexico

PUNTERS

Steve Weatherford SR Illinois
Tom Malone SR USC
Ryan Plackemeier SR Wake Forest
Kody Bliss JR Auburn
Chris Beckman JR Tulane
Adam Podlesh JR Maryland
Eric Wilbur JR Florida
Sam Koch SR Nebraska
Adam Graessle JR Pittsburgh
Adam Brooks SR Wyoming
Kyle Stringer JR Boise St.
Kyle Basler SR Wash. St.
Tim Reyer SO Kansas St.
Ryan Dougherty JR East Carolina



National Overview

By SCOTT RABALAIS, The (Baton Rouge, La.) Advocate

1 SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

| | | | | | |
|----|---------------|--|----|---------------|--|
| 2 | TEXAS | | 17 | TEXAS A&M | |
| 3 | TENNESSEE | | 18 | FLORIDA STATE | |
| 4 | OKLAHOMA | | 19 | FRESNO STATE | |
| 5 | MICHIGAN | | 20 | CALIFORNIA | |
| 6 | LSU | | 21 | VIRGINIA | |
| 7 | VIRGINIA TECH | | 22 | OREGON | |
| 8 | MIAMI | | 23 | PITTSBURGH | |
| 9 | FLORIDA | | 24 | TEXAS TECH | |
| 10 | PURDUE | | 25 | UTAH | |
| 11 | GEORGIA | | | | |
| 12 | OHIO STATE | | | | |
| 13 | IOWA | | | | |
| 14 | AUBURN | | | | |
| 15 | LOUISVILLE | | | | |
| 16 | BOISE STATE | | | | |

Watch out for a new and improved college football season, but look for the same old TROJANS to repeat as champions.

College football has been around since 1869, when Rutgers beat Princeton six goals to four. It was a struggle that more resembled soccer than our modern game and proved that, at least for a time, no school in the Big East was a match for the Scarlet Knights.

The scoring system was changed in 1912 to what we now know. Here in the 21st century, the grand old game keeps changing in significant ways that the boys from Rutgers and Princeton could never have imagined.

Just like in 1869, there is still no playoff, and none on the horizon thanks to a new Bowl Championship Series contract that kicks in with the 2006 season. But there are also new, widespread plans for instant replay and myriad new conference alignments, all of which promise to rewrite the face of college football this season.

Now, if they would just do away with overtime and bring back the tie game ... and the dropkick. ▼



BRING THE COLLEGE FOOTBALL PARTY HOME WITH ESPN GAMEPLAN.



The ESPN GamePlan College Football pay-per-view package is your season ticket to the best in college football. Featuring the teams, conferences and more than 150 games you won't want to miss. Order now and you'll be the first to arrive and the last to leave every Saturday, all season long.



ESPN
GAMEPLAN

ACC | BIG TEN | PAC-10 | BIG 12 | SEC | MOUNTAIN WEST | BIG EAST | WAC | MAC | SUN BELT

ORDER NOW

CALL YOUR LOCAL CABLE COMPANY AT 1-877-ONLYCABLE / DIRECTV AT 1-800-DIRECTV / DISH NETWORK AT 1-800-333-DISH / ESPN.com

ESPN PPV
PAY-PER-VIEW

Games telecast locally may also be included in ESPN GamePlan. Games subject to local blackout. Subscriptions subject to applicable sales tax. Commercial locations require an appropriate license agreement.

Tigers' I-AA tale a nightmare so far

It can be lonely at the top, but even more so at the bottom—especially in Savannah State's case.

The Tigers are the lone independent collegiate football team in Division I-AA this season, but that's the least of their issues right now. Since making what some labeled as an ill-advised jump from Division II three years ago, the Tigers' athletic program as a whole has suffered through winless seasons and steroid allegations, all the while failing to impress most of its boosters and fans.

Savannah State's football team struggled to a 2-8 record in 2004, with one of those victories coming against tiny Allen University of the NAIA. Despite the poor mark, the Tigers actually made a small step up from the previous two seasons, when the team was 0-12 and 1-9, respectively.

But it's off the field where the Tigers have made their real news. They're currently under investigation by the NCAA due to allegations that an SSU student-assistant football coach sold steroids to players last year. That coach has since been fired.

Kent Barrett, a spokesman for the NCAA, says he can't comment on the investigation except that it's ongoing. Barrett adds that no timeline has been placed on the completion of the investigation.

Even though the school is currently in the clear, that didn't stop 11 members from quitting the Tigers' football program after last season. One of those players is running back Tahj Mowry, who transferred to Wyoming, where he must redshirt this year before regaining eligibility in 2006. Mowry says his experience at Savannah State wasn't what he had envisioned.

"Basically, I loved the school when I visited, but it was a different story when I got there," Mowry says. "I'm not here bad-talking about the school, but it wasn't organized at all. There weren't that many coaches. It basically was like chaos every practice."

Mowry says the NCAA investigation is what prompted him to quit the team, along with some of his teammates.

"When the NCAA came to interview us, and you're in this room with a person and a tape recorder, that's scary, you know," Mowry says. "I just wanted to go to school and play football. But that wasn't what was happening [at Savannah State]."

Through all of the transfers and allegations, Tigers coach Richard Basil has stayed the course, trying to remain positive as he prepares for the upcoming season. He makes it known that although 11 players left the team, the school was able to take those scholarships and use them to help bring in a 24-man recruiting class for the upcoming season. Basil also talks about how much a winning season would mean not just to the team—which returns 16 starters this year—but to SSU alumni and the university as a whole.

"It would speak so loud for us," says Basil, entering his second full season as coach at his alma mater. "We've accepted what's going on. We're not talking about it. We're working on it, and that's all you can ask for."

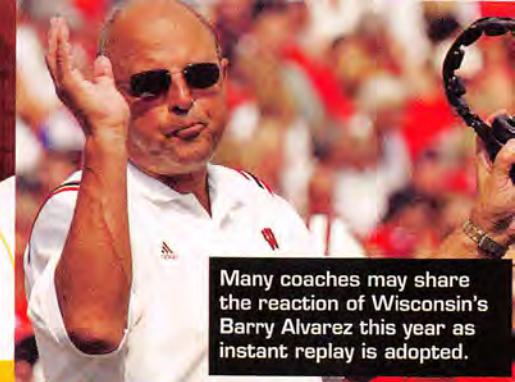
"Watching the players (in spring practice), I think we're due and they're starting to understand it. But it's about how bad you really want it."

Savannah State has been trying to get into a conference for the last two years, with the MEAC and Big South being the most viable options. Until that happens, Basil says he and his team will keep looking for that light at the end of the I-AA tunnel.

"It always helps to have an eye on the prize," he says. "But the players understand where we're trying to go and it takes time. We're still an I-AA team and are playing the right people. If we beat some of them, you never know."

"We're going to be better than we were last year, that's one thing I can guarantee."

—Matt McKenzie



Many coaches may share the reaction of Wisconsin's Barry Alvarez this year as instant replay is adopted.

NEW!

INSTANT REPLAY

One season after the Big Ten implemented the use of instant replay on an experimental basis in games played in its conference stadiums, the rest of major college football is poised to follow suit.

As of late spring, the other five BCS conferences—the ACC, Big 12, Big East, Pac-10 and SEC—had approved the use of instant replay in some fashion. So did the Mountain West. The Mid-American and the Western Athletic conferences were strongly considering instant replay and had the matter front and center on their conference-meeting agendas this summer.

Why the sudden conversion? Perhaps it was the success of the Big Ten experiment.

During the 2004 season, play was stopped in only 28 of 57 Big Ten games for instant replay, 43 stoppages in all. Of those, 21 calls were overturned. On average, only three minutes were added to the length of Big Ten games—up from 3 hours, 13 minutes per contest to 3:16, while the average stoppage took only 2 minutes, 39 seconds compared to 3 minutes, 20 seconds in the NFL.

Despite the bandwagon support of instant replay by the major conferences, the NCAA still comes short of making it mandatory. It has set down a series of parameters for using replay, such as:

- Scoring plays
- Pass complete/incomplete or intercepted
- Runner/receiver in or out of bounds
- Fumble recoveries
- Quarterback forward pass or fumble
- Illegal forward pass
- Runner not ruled down
- Forward progress for a first down
- Number of players on the field

A broad swath of plays are out of bounds for instant-replay scrutiny, most of them judgment calls like pass interference, holding, offsides, personal fouls, false starts, illegal formations and roughing the passer or kicker.

Conferences had until June 1 to submit their instant-replay procedures to the NCAA.

NEW!

Conference Alignment

Can't tell the players without a program?

Well, you can't tell who is playing in which conferences this season without this quick primer:

ACC

The conference that started this whole string of dominoes falling by plucking Miami and Virginia Tech from the Big East last season completes the plunder by bringing Boston College on line. That will allow the league to split into these divisions, with the winners meeting in the inaugural ACC championship game Dec. 3 in Jacksonville:

ATLANTIC: Boston College, Clemson, Florida State, Maryland, North Carolina State, Wake Forest

COASTAL: Duke, Georgia Tech, Miami, North Carolina, Virginia, Virginia Tech

NOTE: Florida State and Miami are in opposite divisions. Still, the Seminoles and Hurricanes will be each other's permanent opposite-division opponent, keeping alive the prospect that they could meet twice each year—in the regular season and the ACC title game.

Big East

After saying farewell to Boston College and giving Temple the boot, the Big East adds Cincinnati, Louisville and South Florida. They join holdovers Connecticut, Pittsburgh, Rutgers, Syracuse and West Virginia, swelling the number of football-playing schools from seven to eight.

Conference USA

With Cincinnati, Louisville and South Florida leaving for the Big East and TCU heading to the Mountain West, C-USA adds Marshall, Rice, SMU, Tulsa, Central Florida and Texas-El Paso to form a 12-team league consisting of two divisions:

EAST: UAB, Central Florida, East Carolina, Marshall, Memphis, Southern Mississippi

WEST: Houston, Rice, SMU, UTEP, Tulane, Tulsa

Mid-American Conference

Marshall and Central Florida have left



Joe Paterno, Penn State:

Probably no other coach in America could have gone 27-32 with three losing seasons in the last five years and still kept his job. One has to wonder how many more losing seasons Penn State can endure before 78-year-old JoePa realizes he's tearing down what he's worked so long to build.

the still-big MAC with 12 teams and a minor amount of divisional shuffling since both of the dearly departed were from the East Division: **EAST:** Akron, Bowling Green, Buffalo, Kent State, Miami (Ohio), Ohio **WEST:** Ball State, Central Michigan, Eastern Michigan, Northern Illinois, Toledo, Western Michigan

Mountain West

This league beefed up by one by adding TCU, bringing the total to nine with Air Force, BYU, Colorado State, New Mexico, San Diego State, UNLV, Utah and Wyoming.

Western Athletic Conference

Four out to C-USA (Rice, SMU, Tulsa, UTEP) and three Western refugees in from the Sun Belt (Idaho, New Mexico State, Utah State) make a nine-team WAC with the original six: Boise State, Fresno State, Hawaii, Louisiana Tech, Nevada and San Jose State.

A Warming Trend



We don't want to pass judgment on the whole global-warming theory, but it's definitely getting toasty where these coaches reside:

Larry Coker, Miami:

What you say? Larry Coker? All he's done is lead Miami to a national

championship in his first season in 2001, come within a highly controversial pass-interference call of another in 2002 against Ohio State and send a remarkable eight underclassmen into the NFL Draft the last three years. But the last two seasons have been pedestrian by Hurricanes standards: 11-2 in 2003 and 9-3 in 2004, the latter including a 16-10 loss to Virginia Tech in the Orange Bowl with the ACC title on the line. It doesn't get any easier for Coker's 'Canes now that the ACC is at full strength with 12 teams, and with a conference championship game to hurdle as well.

Steve Sarkisian/Lane Kiffin, Southern Cal: One derisively imagined it might take two men to replace offensive coordinator Norm Chow when he left for the Tennessee Titans—and it did. We're skeptical here on two fronts: One, co-coordinators never seem to work and, two, can anyone match Chow's play-calling brilliance?



Mike Shula, Alabama: Sure, he's had to deal with a probation-ravaged roster in his first two years at the Capstone. But a 10-15 overall record—including 0-2 against archrival Auburn and a tepid 20-16 loss to Minnesota in last year's Music City Bowl—means the honeymoon won't last much longer regardless of the circumstances.

NEW! BCS CONTRACT

The existing BCS contract and rotation ends the night of Jan. 4, 2006, when the 2005 BCS champion is crowned in the Rose Bowl. It will be the last time one of the traditional BCS bowls—if “traditional” is a term that can be used with the BCS—will crown a national champion.



Starting with the 2006 season and the January 2007 BCS bowls, a national championship game will be played the week after New Year's Day at one of the four BCS bowl sites: the Rose, Sugar, Fiesta and Orange.

The Fiesta Bowl folks get the first shot at hosting the new championship game, with the Fiesta Bowl on Jan. 1, 2007, followed by the BCS national championship game on Jan. 8.

THE TWO-MINUTE DRILL

• Like instant replay, playing 12 games in the regular season was, until recently, just an experiment in college football. Starting in 2006, it will be reality. The NCAA Management Council voted in April to make the 12-game regular season permanent. Schools were allowed to play 12 games during the 2002 and 2003 regular seasons because of an extra playing date in the NCAA's football calendar. Not surprisingly, last season athletic directors missed the extra revenue of an added home game. Many coaches, however, have been opposed to expanding the regular season, claiming it was long enough already.

• Why do non-BCS conferences demand better access to BCS bowls? Just look at the bottom line. Conference commissioners and Notre Dame voted earlier this year on a new BCS contract with the Sugar, Fiesta and Orange Bowls that runs through 2009 (the Rose has a separate deal). The bowls will pay out about \$17 million per team to start with, increasing to about \$18.5 million by the end of the contract. BCS teams earned about \$14.5 million each from last year's top four bowls.

• Tragedy struck the Vanderbilt football team the day after last Christmas when senior-to-be running back Kwane Doster was shot to death while sitting in the back seat of a car in his hometown of Tampa. He was 21. Shortly after his death, the Tampa City Council voted to rename a community center in Doster's honor. Sophomore tailbacks Jeff Jennings and Cassen Jackson-Garrison are expected to compete to fill Doster's starting spot. Doster piled up 1,077 total yards as a junior last season.

• Wake up the echoes. A two-year study convinced Notre Dame to begin playing seven home games instead of six, beginning in 2009. Now that the permanent 12-game season is a reality, Notre Dame is considering playing neutral-site games once a year in cities like New Orleans, Dallas and Chicago, just like the Irish did back in the days of Knute Rockne. Notre Dame also plans to play Navy in Dublin, Ireland, for the second time since 1996.

• The Independence Bowl needed a title sponsor after going without one in 2004—but not this bad. Officials of the Shreveport, La., bowl were stunned and

more than a little embarrassed in January when a chain of gentlemen's clubs called Déjà Vu Showgirls Club offered to put its name on the bowl. Déjà Vu, based in Lansing, Mich., has 70 clubs across the country, including one in Shreveport.

"This makes me sick," Shreveport city councilman Thomas Carmody said. "It better be a bad joke."

Independence Bowl officials certainly thought so, even if they weren't laughing. Quick as a flash, bowl officials rejected the offer, dismissing it as nothing but a publicity stunt.

"It just wouldn't be appropriate," Independence Bowl Executive Director Glen Krupica said.

Still, even Carmody had to admit it would get the struggling bowl some national attention.

"I bet the halftime show [would be] awesome," he said.



Twenty-two and counting...

Even without Chow directing the offense, the Trojans appear set for a threepeat.

Street & Smith's Preseason TOP 25

1 Southern California (13-0 in 2004)

Back-to-back national championships. Twenty-two straight victories. Fifteen returning starters, including Heisman winner Matt Leinart, Reggie Bush, LenDale White, Dwayne Jarrett. Who can stop the Trojans? Only themselves, unless losing offensive coordinator Norm Chow to the NFL actually does upset USC's karma.

2 Texas (11-1)

If anyone else in our top 10 had the Longhorns' talent, they would be in the top two. But Texas' track record in big games under Mack Brown begs skepticism. Except, the Longhorns gained mucho confidence by beating Michigan in the Rose Bowl. They can get back there if QB Vince Young and 15 other returning starters can finally beat Oklahoma in Dallas.

3 Tennessee (10-3)

The Volunteers' surprising run to last year's SEC Championship Game signaled a return to peak form for the boys from Rocky Top, and this despite a rough stretch of injuries. Quarterback Erik Ainge and his repaired right shoulder return to do the throwing, while Gerald Riggs Jr. is back to do the running. Tennessee should score points aplenty.

4 Oklahoma (12-1)

One big reason the Sooners are still up here despite losing 15 starters: Adrian Peterson. The freshman piled up 3,149 total yards, including 1,925 yards rushing, in 2004. Still, it will be a huge challenge for the Sooners, who must replace QB Jason White (Rhett Bomar or Paul Thompson), wide receiver Mark Clayton (Travis Wilson, who actually led the team in TDs with 11) and defensive end Dan Cody.

5 Michigan (9-3)

Considering what the Wolverines lost—wide receiver Braylon Edwards, safety Ernest Shazor and cornerback Marlin Jackson—picking Michigan this high seems highly dubious. Still, quarterback Chad Henne, running back Michael Hart and wideout Steve Breaston offer enough offensively to get this team to the Rose Bowl.

6 LSU (9-3)

Three questions for the Tigers: How will they adapt to new coach Les Miles? How will they replace All-America defensive end Marcus Spears? Can they get steady play at quarterback to go with 10 returning offensive starters? If LSU

answers "yes" to all of these queries, the Tigers can contend for a second BCS title in three years.

7 Virginia Tech (10-3)

Quarterback Marcus Vick—yes, you-know-who's little brother—takes over the helm of a Hokies team that could again win the ACC if he fulfills even some of his promise and keeps the off-field problems in check. Defensive back Jimmy Williams leads the defense, and coach Frank Beamer's special teams are always good for a crucial blocked kick or three.

8 Miami (9-3)

The Hurricanes' stunning loss to Virginia Tech in the Orange Bowl cost Miami a shot at its first ACC title and some of its swagger. The 'Canes will be out to regain that with new quarterback Kyle Wright. If Miami is to win the ACC this year, it will do it with defense, as nine starters return there.

9 Florida (7-5)

The sense of dread hovering over the SEC is the fear that the Gators may have found another Steve Spurrier. New coach Urban Meyer brings his spread-option attack to a team stacked with talent like QB Chris Leak and wideouts Andre Caldwell and Dallas Baker. The defense is another story. The Gators will be in their fair share of shootouts.

10 Purdue (7-5)

Led by the next great Boiler QB, Brandon Kirsch, it could be a special season in West Lafayette, as 11 starters are back on defense, seven on offense, with both kickers returning. Perhaps more importantly, the Big Ten schedule is about as favorable as it gets—no Michigan, no Ohio State and Iowa at home.

11 Georgia (10-2)

The David and David era—quarterback David Greene and defensive end David Pollack—is over after a 42-10 record in four years. Coach Mark Richt was enamored with inserting D.J. Shockley in almost every game last season at QB. Now, he has no choice. There is top-notch tailback talent, led by Thomas Brown, but the defense must find a new leader.

12 Ohio State (8-4)

Maurice Clarett is finally gone and the NCAA investigators aren't, but the Buckeyes are too talented to be thrown too far off their game. Ted Ginn is an early favorite in the Heisman Trophy race and the defense should be rock-hard behind linebackers Bobby Carpenter, Anthony Schlegel and the aptly named A.J. Hawk.

13 Iowa (10-2)

Kirk Ferentz could be the best coach in college football. He won 10 games last year with a completely decimated running game, but ball-carriers like Sam Brownlee and Albert Young are back healthy this season. The return of wizard-like QB Drew Tate—last seen beating LSU with a game-ending bomb in the Capital One Bowl—makes the Hawkeyes as savvy a pick as any in the Big Ten.

14 Auburn (13-0)

The Tigers could be reeling from the loss of offensive stars like Carnell "Cadillac" Williams, Ronnie Brown and Jason Campbell. But the anguish of being denied a shot at last year's national championship and wanting to prove themselves worthy is worth a few victories. A great defense, led by linebacker Travis Williams, doesn't hurt either.

15 Louisville (11-1)

The Cardinals come riding into the Big East like Alex Karras on his bull in "Blazing Saddles." In other words, they're big and dangerous. Sure, Louisville lost quarterback Stefan LeFors to graduation, but sophomore Brian Brohm may be more talented. Add the running of tailback Michael Bush and the rest of the Big East should be afraid—very afraid.

16 Boise State (11-1)

The Broncos will still be the team to beat in the WAC, but going undefeated through the regular season again seems unlikely. Quarterback Jared Zabransky must compensate for a porous defense. The winner of the Boise-Fresno State game Nov. 11 in Fresno will likely win the WAC.

17 Texas A&M (7-5)

The Aggies still aren't ready to challenge Oklahoma and Texas for one of the top two spots in the Big 12 South, but they're closing the gap in coach Dennis Franchione's third year. Reggie McNeal may be the most elusive quarterback in the conference and eight starters return to the "Wrecking Crew" defense.

18 Florida State (9-3)

Despite some returning talent on defense, the Seminoles don't inspire the fear they once did. Wyatt Sexton likely takes over for oft-criticized Chris Rix at QB, but everyone wants to see if he can make plays before anointing him the next great FSU signal-caller. Though no one is picking the 'Noles for the Rose Bowl, FSU is the team to beat in the ACC's new Atlantic Division.

19 Fresno State (9-3)

The Bulldogs keep taking on all comers, their most recent victim being Virginia in the MPC Computers Bowl. This time, with 17 returning starters, they could

be the team to beat in the WAC. Both Bryson Sumlin and Dwayne Wright are former 1,000-yard rushers, while defensive tackle Garrett McIntyre specializes in stuffing runners into small packages.

20 California (10-2)

Even the Bears' preseason media guide asks the question: "Can the beat go on in Berkeley?" California's offense was decimated by the loss of QB Aaron Rodgers, running back JJ Arrington and most of the receiver corps. Coach Jeff Tedford has built a lot of credibility by rebuilding the Bears' program. He does so this year around QB Joseph Ayoob and a raft of junior-college transfers.

21 Virginia (8-4)

Their 37-34 overtime loss to Fresno State in the MPC Computers Bowl leaves some wondering if the Cavaliers are up to contending in what will be a brutal ACC Coastal Division (Miami, Virginia Tech, Georgia Tech). Quarterback Marques Hagans will be asked to lead a talented but largely inexperienced team.

22 Oregon (5-6)

Fourteen starters return, including virtually all of coach Mike Bellotti's top skill-position players, led by quarterback Kellen Clemens (5,149 career passing yards, sixth all-time at Oregon), running back Terrence Whitehead (1,144 yards in 2004) and wideout Demetrius Williams (47 receptions last season).

23 Pittsburgh (8-4)

New coach Dave Wannstedt inherits a team better equipped to win the diluted Big East again than his former Miami Dolphins were to get to the top of the AFC East. It starts with the pass-and-catch combo of Tyler Palko and Greg Lee, and continues on defense with talented linebacker H.B. Blades, son of former Detroit Lions Pro Bowl safety Bennie Blades.

24 Texas Tech (8-4)

The Red Raiders' impressive 45-31 upset of California in the Holiday Bowl convinced many that coach Mike Leach isn't just some mad offensive scientist. OK, maybe he is. But he's almost certain to produce another 4,000-yard passer (either Cody Hodges or Graham Harrell) and has a great runner (Taurean Henderson) to complement him.

25 Utah (12-0)

Urban Meyer leaves behind a confident program filled with people determined not to let it slip off the national radar. Some regression is likely without QB Alex Smith, but sophomore Brian Johnson shows promise as his replacement. New coach Kyle Whittingham's background is defense.

Jim Hurley
Goes Out On A Limb and Hands You The Saw!

FREE SEASON OF FOOTBALL!

If I don't go 6-0 on my top pre-season Games

Here's the deal: I'm giving you the whole pre-season - every single Best Bet I have from August 6th to September 2nd - for only \$69. Furthermore, I'm singling out the Top Six of those games and GUARANTEEING them: **YOU MUST WIN ALL SIX** - or I will give you the regular college and NFL season - that's 80 or more games - a \$350 value - **ABSOLUTELY FREE!**

If I get a lot of guys answering this ad and I lose one of my Top Six, I just blew a lot of money! That means I need **MONSTER WINNERS** where I am getting so many edges that fifty things could go wrong and the game will still win.

LIKE LAST YEAR'S TOP SIX. LOOK HOW BIG THEY WON!

PRE-SEASON TRIPLE CROWN

WON!

8/21 Steelers (-3)
Texans 38-3 W
Jets (+4) Colts 31-7 W
Chargers (+3)
Cards 38-13 W

GAME OF MONTH

WON!

8/16 Seahawks (+3)
Packers 21-3 W
(One of our wins was a Triple Crown, so we really went 8-0!)

PRE-SEASON UPSET OF YEAR

WON!

8/28 Browns (+5)
Chiefs 21-19 W

BLOWOUT GAME OF YEAR

WON!

8/28 Colts (-4)
Bills 30-17 W

PRE-SEASON GAME OF YEAR

WON!

9/2 Cardinals (+7)
Broncos 33-21 W

AVERAGE
COVER
19 PTS!

COLLEGE KICKOFF OF YEAR

WON!

8/28 Va Tech (+17)
USC 13-24 W

What's our secret? We know the pre-season can be won! We dig up information others overlook. We knew the Broncos wouldn't be playing their starters on offense.

We knew the Chiefs receivers were too banged up to play.

Even our "every day" pre-season selections cashed in on overlooked information!

| | | | | |
|-----|---------------|---------|-------|---|
| A26 | Steelers (+3) | Eagles | 27-21 | W |
| A15 | Bills (+3) | Broncos | 16-6 | W |
| A14 | Texans (pk) | Cowboys | 18-0 | W |

BONUS:

My NETWORK BULLETIN Football Newsletter - mailed 1st class Sunday night or e-mailed (your option). Provides industry's most respected power ratings, plus advance analysis of every college/NFL game. A \$75 VALUE

CALL ME RIGHT
NOW AND GET
LISTED TODAY!

1-800-323-4453
also available at www.jimhurley.com

P.S. I guarantee the pre-season as well! You must come out ahead or play the season free!



What his peers say about Jim Hurley...

"A leader in advanced analysis and a formidable prognosticator."

Athlon Football Annual

"Jim Hurley has changed handicapping from seat of the pants to state of the art."

Jimmy Vaccaro, Dean of Las Vegas Linesmakers

"Jim Hurley knows how to dig beneath surface factors to find the hidden answer."

Michael "Roxy" Roxborough, Linesmaker, created syndicated "America's Line"

"Sharp numbers and a great instinct have made him a perennial winner."

Lindy's Football Annual



20 QUESTIONS FOR... STEVE SPURRIER

When he spent a year away from coaching football—his first in more than 20 years—Steve Spurrier thought to himself, “Maybe this is what I want to do.”

Then the mentality of the “Ol’ Ball Coach” set in, and the next thing Spurrier knew, he was charged with trying to turn yet another program around, this time at South Carolina.

Just as his visor has become a fashion trademark, renovating and improving college football teams is something Spurrier has become a master of, beginning with Duke in the late 1980s, where he was 20-13-1.

Spurrier’s next project was the University of Florida, where he cemented his legacy in college football, winning seven SEC titles and the 1996 national championship. It was during that time that he implemented the “Fun ‘N Gun” offense, where emphasis was placed on throwing the ball.

But for all his success on the collegiate level, Spurrier still wanted to give the NFL a shot to prove he could coach on the biggest stage. He got his chance following the 2001 season, when he left Florida



after 12 years and a 122-27-1 overall record to coach the Washington Redskins under a five-year, \$25 million deal.

Spurrier quickly tried to grow accustomed to this new world, installing his pass-happy offense and going 7-9 in his rookie season.

Things began to fall apart the next year, however, as the offense sputtered while Spurrier and Redskins owner Daniel Snyder began to differ on the team’s direction and ability. By the end of his second year (5-11), Spurrier had resigned, labeling the experience as “embarrassing.”

After a year off and realizing he wanted to get back into college football, Spurrier waited for the right job to come along, then took the position with the Gamecocks this past November, replacing Lou Holtz, who had three winning seasons in six years.

Spurrier’s return has sparked optimism among the Gamecock faithful, but he already has had to deal with multiple off-field issues. By press time, 11 of South Carolina’s current or former players were charged with a crime since January.

Just five days after he celebrated his 60th birthday, Spurrier sat down to talk with *Street & Smith’s* staff writer Matt McKenzie about his new job and previous employment, as well as the state of college football as he sees it today.

SEAN MEYERS / ICON SMI

S&S: How has the reception by the South Carolina boosters and fans made an impression on you?

SPURRIER: The fans have been wonderful. Of course, South Carolina has always been noted for having excellent fans. They buy tickets and generously donate to the booster organization and fill the stadium. They haven’t received much in return for the dues they’ve paid to Carolina football, though. But the fans have made me, my family and my coaching staff feel like we’re the guys that they really want and hopefully, in return, we can deliver to them a good team that they can be proud of. I just feel very fortunate to be here. I just really believe this is a university that has all the resources to be successful, but for whatever reason, hasn’t achieved that much. But hopefully, we can take this program to new heights.

S&S: Can you put a reason on that? In its history, South Carolina has had a lot of resources and fan support, but through the years can’t seem to break through.

SPURRIER: Well, this situation is so similar to Florida in 1990 (when Spurrier became the head coach of the Gators). It’s sort of scary. Florida, as most people know, had not achieved all that much but yet everything was there to be very successful also. The biggest thing we did down there that we’re trying to do here is absolutely eliminate any excuse about why we can’t be winners and why we can’t be successful. So we don’t really refer to the past that much. We’re just starting fresh and are going with the team we have and, again, no excuses. If we get beat, then we’re just not good enough, not tough enough or smart enough, but no other reason.

S&S: You recently had your intrasquad scrimmage game. How interesting was it to see all the fans come out and have it televised on ESPN?

SPURRIER: Well, we heard there was going to be 30,000 to 40,000 (fans) and 38,500 showed up and were wonderful. It was very encouraging to our team that our fans have this much enthusiasm and hope that good times are on the way. When a new coach is hired, it always brings hope for better times. And hopefully we can give it to them, because I truly believe this is a football program that can be at the top of the SEC someday.

S&S: I know there is some familiarity with your son, Steve Jr., joining you on the coaching staff, but how hard is it coming into a new job and trying to put together a staff, trying to get them acquainted with the players in the process?

SPURRIER: Well, we got here at the right time in November, so we had the entire November and December to catch up in recruiting, which was the first area that we were behind. But Rick Stockstill, our recruiting coordinator, gave us an outstanding recruiting class.

S&S: Since you’ve been gone, how much of a different landscape do you expect college football to be?

SPURRIER: I think it’s pretty similar to when I left four years ago, but everybody’s throwing the ball more. Everybody’s spread out; there are probably a lot more shotgun offenses now than there were four years ago. There’s just a lot of more wide-open style of play, but still I believe the most successful teams still have a good balance between the run and the pass, and certainly we’re going to try and do that.

S&S: Have you talked to Lou Holtz at all since taking this job and has he given you any advice on the position?

SPURRIER: Oh, I’ve talked to him quite a bit as I was taking the job and the day of it. Basically, he wrote me a letter of congratulations

and I wrote him back and so forth. But he’s the type of man that once he’s left, he’s left, and he’s down in Orlando, Fla., now.

S&S: When you were at Florida, you had Florida-Tennessee as your big rivalry. Now it’s the battle of in-state schools with South Carolina-Clemson. How big of a deal is this game to you?

SPURRIER: Clemson is obviously the big rival for South Carolina. Personally, I think sometimes our fans talk a little too much about Clemson. The more you talk about a school or a team, the more you put them on a pedestal about how good they are. Personally, I think you should talk about all your opponents, but you talk about them one week at a time and try to prepare to play your best. Clemson has beaten South Carolina a lot more than we’ve beaten them. I don’t know the exact record, but we need to change that. And we need to beat Georgia, Tennessee and Florida, and we need to beat Clemson. Shoot, we need to beat a lot of these teams. But talking about it, and talking about how much you dislike (a team), has never been the answer on how to beat them. You need to prepare well, and play and coach well that day, and usually those things determine the winner.

S&S: How do you feel you’ll be received when you go down to Gainesville to coach your new team against your old team?

SPURRIER: Oh, that’s two years from now. I don’t have to worry about that until then. But I was asked how I would feel coaching against them here, which is probably a better question, because I really don’t pay much attention to the ballparks and, really, I don’t pay much attention to who we’re playing. As the head coach and the quarterback coach and the offensive coordinator, mentally I’m just into giving our guys the best plays possible, trying to call a good game and get our quarterback ready to make good

decisions. So, in actuality, I'm not necessarily thinking about the name on the helmet.

S&S: You and Tennessee coach Philip Fulmer got back into another "war of the words" in the offseason. How much of that is designed to get under his skin?

SPURRIER: It had nothing to do with getting under anybody's skin. We had a player involved in a little bit of a scuffle around here. It was never proven he hit anybody, and some of the writers were trying to make a big deal about our guys fighting and they should be kicked off the team. Our guy was at this little scuffle, but he wasn't in there kicking and throwing punches, so I just said, "You want to read about football players fighting and kicking and hitting, you need to go to Knoxville because they've had eight or nine of them arrested there." I was just trying to infer that our guys aren't fighters and kickers and this, that or the other. Of course, (the story) turned out that I was trying to insult Tennessee or something, but I was just really trying to protect our guys a little bit from being labeled as a bunch of fighters all the time.

S&S: On that same note, has it been tiring having to deal with the off-field issues?

SPURRIER: Yes, it's been very embarrassing for all of us here. You know, we've had guys steal; we've had a few guys involved with pot smoking. We've only had one violent act. We had one guy who broke in his ex-girlfriend's apartment, got arrested and was kicking and screaming, from what I heard. So, he's finished here. The guys involved with stealing, unfortunately, chose to commit those acts rather than play football for South Carolina. Those guys are finished also. It's unfortunate, (because) some of them were pretty good players—some of them were potential starters—but we're going to enforce the rules we have here. Why they chose to (commit the crimes), I don't know, but it's already happened and we've got to move on.

S&S: It seemed like at Florida you ran a pretty tight ship and not too many people got in trouble. What do you think is the key for managing off-field issues?

SPURRIER: The main factor down there is that we had to dismiss a guy my first three months on the job in 1990. A guy got in a fight down at a frat house, he punched a kid and took off, so when we dismissed him from the team, that finished the fights at the frat house. Then we had two players that got into a fight with each other at a bowl game, so we sent them home and dismissed them from the team and that ended the fights among players. And that's the only way I know how to handle it. A lot of coaches give kids second, third, fourth chances and so forth, but it's not that hard to follow the rules that we have here. So that's how I handled it in the past and that's how I'm going to handle it again here. If we lose some good players, then so be it, but hopefully the guys that are here now realize they can't do those things if they want to go to school and play ball here.

S&S: The position of quarterback here is going to be one of your more scrutinized positions, and it's one you've had success with in the past. In essence, do you think it's more important to be a smart quarterback or athletic, if you had to choose between the two?

SPURRIER: If I had to choose, oh, I'd choose a smart, courageous decision-maker first above everything, but it's helpful to have a good athletic quarterback. Shoot, the way these people rush now, you need a guy

who can avoid and move around a little bit. You can't just be a sitting target back there. And we have some pretty good players here. They're a long way off knowledge-wise about how to play quarterback, but maybe they can get there if they commit a lot of time this summer trying to learn exactly what we're doing, work on their fundamentals throwing and really learn our offense. But if you're going to throw the ball—and if you're going to score a lot of points, you almost have to throw the ball nowadays—your quarterback better make really good decisions or you can look very foolish.

S&S: As a quarterback in your system, how many hours do you estimate are devoted to having to watch films, study game plans and work with the coaches?

SPURRIER: Well, it's the ability to think on the field. (Former Florida QB) Danny Wuerffel, he didn't watch tape all summer. He watched about as much as the rest of the receivers during the season. It's not that confusing all the time, but the ability to make decisions when you see something—a lot of guys start to panic a little bit or freeze up a little bit—whereas he didn't put himself in a bad position. When you hit the snap, you better have a good idea of what you're going to do with the ball and, right now, sometimes our players are just going back there and running around. That's what we've got to avoid. We've got to have a plan just about every time you say "hut, hut" and get the ball. But you don't have to spend all summer watching tape. You just have to know what the other 10 guys are doing and, if you know what they're doing, the defense will sort of dictate what you have to do.

S&S: In your opinion, why did the Redskins job not work out?

SPURRIER: I don't have any real excuse, I mean reason. If I started talking about it, it would sound like an excuse. Someone asked me, "When did you know you were finished coaching there?" and I said I knew I was finished at the start of the second season when I was not allowed to choose who the backup quarterback would be. The owner (Daniel Snyder) decided he's going to choose the backup quarterback. So I knew I probably wouldn't last more than a year. But again, I got myself into that situation and I didn't do a very good job at all. And that's probably one of the big reasons I'm excited about this job, because I'm committed to doing this job the right way.

S&S: You were quoted as saying, "Maybe I was a little too arrogant," pertaining to your time in the NFL. Did that experience humble you at all?

SPURRIER: I think certainly any time you aren't very successful, which we weren't, we all have a little humility. It's funny, I heard (Tampa Bay Buccaneers coach) Jon Gruden's record the other day. Since the Super Bowl, he's 12-20. And I said, "Whoa, that's my record." Everybody has all the answers (after losing) except for (Patriots coach Bill) Belichick—he's the best. He's probably the favorite coach out of everybody now because he really remains humble and passes the attention and praise on to his players. But I think we all need a little more humility after being knocked down a little bit. And I've said many times I have a greater respect for all coaches now.

S&S: Can you elaborate on that last statement? I know at one point you poked fun at NFL coaches who sleep in their offices. Now

having experienced that, do you think that's something you have to do or can you have a life outside the NFL during the season and still be successful?

SPURRIER: Well, those NFL coaches, it's a yearlong grind. They take about maybe a month off, where in college we get about three months off. You have more downtime as a college coach, but I'm not a believer you have to stay in the office until midnight or 2 a.m. I talked to Gregg Williams, defensive coordinator (for Washington now under Joe Gibbs), and I asked him, "Do you stay here until two or three in the morning?" And he said, "Heck, no. I don't think you make any good decision after midnight."

S&S: Are you more comfortable working under an athletic director, such as Eric Hyman, who was recently hired by South Carolina, or an NFL owner like the Redskins' Daniel Snyder?

SPURRIER: Everyone's different. I never really had any issues with the athletic directors that I worked for and I don't anticipate any here. But when I signed with the Redskins I basically got nothing in writing except whatever my contract was. But that's a different story that we don't even need to get into.

S&S: Can you tell me where you think college football is with the Bowl Championship Series?

SPURRIER: When I was coaching at Florida, I always thought we should have had some kind of playoff with eight teams. Now that I'm here at South Carolina ... I heard because we have 27 bowls, I think, with 54 teams times almost 80-90 players, that's over 4,500 or so college football players getting the opportunity to experience postseason play. So, in a way, I understand now why we do the bowl game. But to determine the national championship, I still believe that some type of playoff should occur because all of the other sports have a playoff or tournament. Football elects not to do it and they give you all these reasons why, but none of them make any sense to me. But we have to do it the way we do it and go from there.

S&S: So you don't think in, say, 10 years, that the pressure from everybody calling for a playoff system will change the minds of BCS officials?

SPURRIER: I don't think so, unless the television people say we want a playoff and we're not going to give you all that big money for those BCS games. Because money talks, as we all know.

S&S: You recently turned 60 and have signed a seven-year contract with South Carolina. Is this the end of the line for you?

SPURRIER: Yes, I've told many people this is my last coaching gig. But I feel good; I'm looking through the seven-year deal. If I felt old, then I shouldn't have even taken the job. But I probably work out more than I ever have, maybe because I have more time. I hit the golf ball a little bit farther this past weekend than I have in a long time. But this is what I enjoy doing, it gives me excitement. I'm not ready to lay at the beach all day and play golf and come back and act like a retired guy. I want to get in the fire, get in the arena. We may get our butts kicked. Now, I'm not saying we're going to tear 'em up, but I believe we can have a very competitive team this year. And if we can recruit very close to how Tennessee, Georgia and Florida recruit, then we've got a chance to compete very well.



ACC CONFERENCE PREDICTED ORDER OF FINISH:

ATLANTIC

p.21

p.23

p.25

p.26

p.27

p.27



COASTAL

p.28

p.30

p.32

p.33

p.34

p.34



Games to watch:

>> Miami at Florida State, Sept. 5

Preview of inaugural ACC title game?

>> Florida State at Boston College, Sept. 17

Seminoles welcome Eagles to the ACC.

>> Miami at Virginia Tech, Nov. 5

This may well decide the Coastal Division winner.

Official conference Web site:
www.theacc.com

Street & Smith's ALL-CONFERENCE

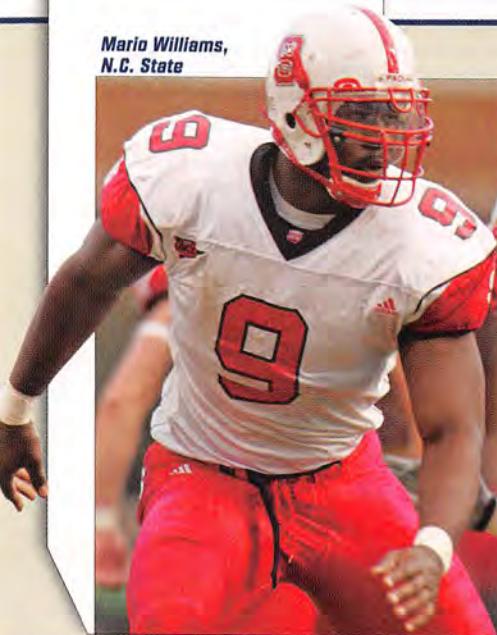
Offense

| | |
|----|--------------------------------------|
| QB | Charlie Whitehurst, Sr., Clemson |
| RB | Chris Barclay, Sr., Wake Forest |
| RB | Wall Lundy, Sr., Virginia |
| OL | D'Brickashaw Ferguson, Sr., Virginia |
| OL | Jeremy Trueblood, Sr., Boston Coll. |
| OL | Will Montgomery, Sr., Virginia Tech |
| OL | Stephan Heyer, Sr., Maryland |
| OL | Eric Winston, Sr., Miami |
| WR | Calvin Johnson, So., Georgia Tech |
| WR | Sinorice Moss, Sr., Miami |
| TE | Jeff King, Sr., Virginia Tech |
| PK | Brandon Pace, Jr., Virginia Tech |

Defense

| | |
|----|---------------------------------------|
| DL | Darryl Tapp, Sr., Virginia Tech |
| DL | Mathias Kiwanuka, Sr., Boston Coll. |
| DL | Orien Harris, Sr., Miami |
| DL | Mario Williams, Jr., N.C. State |
| LB | Ahmed Brooks, Jr., Virginia |
| LB | Ernie Sims, Jr., Florida State |
| LB | D'Qwell Jackson, Sr., Maryland |
| DB | Tye Hill, Sr., Clemson |
| DB | Anthony Reddick, So., Miami |
| DB | Jimmy Williams, Sr., Virginia Tech |
| DB | Antonio Cromartie, Jr., Florida State |
| P | Ryan Plackemeyer, Sr., Wake Forest |

Mario Williams,
N.C. State



Rating the recruits

1. **Florida State:** Another impressive haul for the 'Noles.
2. **Miami:** Conspicuously absent in this otherwise stellar class: a quarterback.
3. **Virginia Tech:** Extraordinary in-state haul for the Hokies.
4. **Virginia:** Cavaliers raided New Jersey for several blue-chippers.
5. **Clemson:** Unlike its immediate predecessor, this class received national accolades.
6. **Maryland:** Not the Terps' best class under Ralph Friedgen, but solid nonetheless.
7. **N.C. State:** Prep All-American Tony Baker heads a strong, large class.
8. **North Carolina:** Heels' on-field success in 2004 didn't pay expected dividends in recruiting.
9. **Boston College:** Off-year for Tom O'Brien and his staff.
10. **Duke:** On paper, the Blue Devils' strongest effort in many years.
11. **Georgia Tech:** Not much buzz about the Yellow Jackets' class.
12. **Wake Forest:** Deacons' class doesn't appear to have any firepower.

Rating the players

| | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Fastest receiver | Kenny O'Neal, Florida State |
| Best hands | Calvin Johnson, WR, Georgia Tech |
| Best passing QB | Charlie Whitehurst, Clemson |
| Best running QB | Marques Hagans, Virginia |
| Most elusive RB | Lorenzo Booker, Florida State |
| Best instincts | Jimmy Williams, DB, Virginia Tech |
| Best athlete | Ahmed Brooks, LB, Virginia |
| Best under pressure | Ernie Sims, LB, Florida State |
| Top NFL prospect | D'Brickashaw Ferguson, OT, Virginia |
| Top impact freshman | Vince Oghobase, DL, Duke |
| Hardest hitter | Ernie Sims, LB, Florida State |
| Biggest underachiever | Wesley Jefferson, LB, Maryland |

Rating the coaches

| | |
|-------------------|-----------------------------|
| Best strategist | Frank Beamer, Virginia Tech |
| Best recruiter | Bobby Bowden, Florida State |
| Coach on the spot | Chan Gailey, Georgia Tech |

Don't be surprised if ...

Clemson quarterback Charlie Whitehurst bounces back from a subpar junior season [17 interceptions, 7 TD passes] and regains his 2003 form.

One man's opinion

"I think it's going to continue to get harder for teams to dominate the way [Florida State] did for a long time. I think, overall, the league's going to continue to be more competitive. Unlike the previous years in the ACC where Florida State had such a strong run, I think you're going to see several teams jump up and compete for the championship."

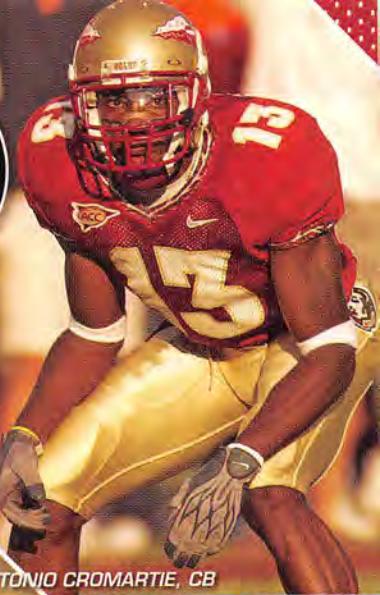
—an ACC assistant coach



FLORIDA STATE

SEMINOLES

TALLAHASSEE, FLA.

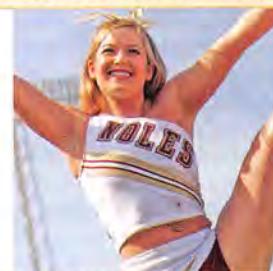


2004 Record: 9-3 overall, 6-2 ACC (beat West Virginia in the Gator Bowl, 30-18)

Stadium: Doak Campbell Stadium

Turf: Grass

Capacity: 82,300



FIVE-YEAR WINS TREND

| | | | | |
|------|------|------|------|------|
| 11 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 9 |
| 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 |

PRESEASON RANK:

1

Head coach: **Bobby Bowden**, 30th Year (278-70-4) Career Record: 351-102-4

Assistant coaches: **Mickey Andrews** (assoc. head coach/def. coord./sec.), **Billy Sexton** (asst. head coach/RBs), **Jeff Bowden** (off. coord./WRs), **Jody Allen** (DEs), **Daryl Dickey** (QBs), **Odell Haggins** (DTs), **Mark McHale** (off. line), **John Lilly** (TEs/recruiting coord.), **Kevin Steele** (exec. head coach/LBs)

'Noles not the dominant team they once were, but defense has a chance to be truly great

Remember when ACC football was routinely dismissed by many as "Florida State and the Eight Dwarfs?"

Alas, for the Seminoles and coach Bobby Bowden, those days are gone, never to return. That's what happens when you add Miami, Virginia Tech and now Boston College to a conference previously notable for its lack of football heavyweights.

Even before the ACC expanded, however, Florida State's decline had begun. From 1992, its first season in the ACC, through 2000, FSU didn't lose more than two games in any season. In 2001, they lost four games and, for the first time, failed to capture at least a share of the ACC crown.

They regained the title in 2002 but lost—gasp!—five games. The Seminoles repeated as ACC champion in '03 but dropped three games and again didn't contend for the national title. In '04, the 'Noles (9-3, 6-2) could not even console themselves with another ACC championship, as Virginia Tech made switching leagues look easy and grabbed the title.

That the FSU program is not the juggernaut it once was is beyond dispute. Only a fool, however, would suggest the Seminoles no longer are formidable, especially at Doak Campbell Stadium. They're still capable of dazzling performances—see the 36-3 rout of then-sixth-ranked Virginia last season—and still rank among the nation's elite teams.

From a team that closed the 2004 season by beating West Virginia 30-18 in the Gator Bowl, Florida State lost major, major talent. The Seminoles annually reload, but they're rebuilding, too. Eight FSU players were chosen in this year's NFL Draft, all in the first six rounds. Among those Bowden must replace are two first-team All-ACC selections—offensive tackle Alex Barron and defensive tackle Travis Johnson—and three second-team picks: wide receiver Chauncey Stovall, defensive end Chauncey Davis and cornerback Bryant McFadden.

Also drafted were safety Jerome Carter, defensive end Eric Moore and offensive tackle Ray Willis. Still, don't shed too many tears for Florida State. Bowden and his staff landed a recruiting class loaded with blue-chip prospects, as usual, and FSU's roster includes countless players who will one day draw NFL paychecks.

As he heads into his 30th season in Tallahassee, Bowden has five returning starters on offense and five back on defense, along with senior punter

Chris Hall. What the living legend doesn't have is a quarterback who's established himself as one of the nation's elite at his position. The graduated Chris Rix appeared to be a special talent as a freshman, but he never again came close to realizing his potential in a career marked by poor decisions.

Junior Wyatt Sexton, who started seven games in 2004, emerged from spring practice as the No. 1 QB. But if Sexton stumbles, talented redshirt freshmen Xavier Lee and Drew Weatherford are waiting eagerly for their turns. Sexton completed 139 of 252 passes for 1,661 yards with eight touchdowns and eight interceptions in 10 games last season. An on-again, off-again starter, Sexton watched Rix lead FSU to victory in the Gator Bowl.

The play-calling and schemes of offensive coordinator Jeff Bowden—one of Bobby's sons—have been sharply criticized by FSU fans in recent years. The players, however, were encouraged by changes implemented during spring practice.

"I think we're going to be more dynamic and flexible," says Sexton, whose father, Billy, coaches FSU's running backs. "We're going to do a lot of different things from a lot of different sets."

A rash of injuries kept several starting offensive linemen on the sidelines during spring practice, including center David Castillo, tackle Cory Niblock and guard Matt Meinrod. For the Seminoles to achieve their goals in 2005, the line must hold, so Bobby Bowden is praying his injured players get well this summer. He also hopes youngsters such as sophomore tackle David Overmyer, who impressed in the Gator Bowl, continue to improve under new line coach Mark McHale.

If the blocking is there, tailbacks Leon Washington and Lorenzo Booker, arguably the nation's top tandem at that position, will do the rest. Washington's rushing average of 95.1 yards per game led the ACC, and he was named second-team all-conference. He also garnered MVP honors at the Gator Bowl. Booker's average of 73.9 ranked sixth in the ACC. Washington is a senior, while Booker is a junior.

Florida State lost three of its top four receivers from 2004, but with wideouts such as senior Willie Reid, junior Chris Davis, sophomore De'Cody Fagg and freshmen Greg Carr and Kenny O'Neal on his roster, the elder Bowden isn't too worried. Davis had four catches for 95 yards in a spring game dominated by the Seminoles' defense.

2005 SCHEDULE

| DATE | OPPONENT | '04 RESULT |
|-------|----------------------|------------|
| S. 5 | Miami (FL) | 10-16 (OT) |
| S. 10 | Citadel | |
| S. 17 | @BOSTON COLLEGE | |
| O. 1 | Syracuse | 17-13 |
| O. 8 | Wake Forest | 20-17 |
| O. 15 | @VIRGINIA | 36-3 |
| O. 22 | @DUKE | 29-7 |
| O. 29 | Maryland | 17-20 |
| N. 5 | North Carolina State | 17-10 |
| N. 12 | @CLEMSON | 41-22 |
| N. 26 | @FLORIDA | 13-20 |

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 11
Lettermen returning/lost: 44/18

OFFENSE

| | | |
|----|----|---------------------------------|
| QB | 19 | Wyatt Sexton (6-3, 217, Jr.) |
| FB | 36 | James Coleman (6-0, 245, Sr.) |
| TB | 3 | Leon Washington (5-9, 202, Sr.) |
| LT | 62 | Cory Niblock (6-4, 301, Jr.) |
| LG | 67 | John Frady (6-4, 298, So.) |
| C | 63 | David Castillo (6-2, 304, Jr.) |
| RG | 64 | Matt Meinrod (6-4, 297, Jr.) |
| RT | 79 | David Overmyer (6-5, 284, So.) |
| TE | 14 | Matt Henshaw (6-4, 234, Sr.) |
| WR | 26 | Willie Reid (5-10, 186, Sr.) |
| WR | 5 | Chris Davis (6-0, 176, Jr.) |

DEFENSE

| | | |
|-----|----|-----------------------------------|
| DE | 92 | Darrell Burton (6-2, 241, Jr.) |
| NG | 97 | Clifton Dickson (6-4, 310, Jr.) |
| DT | 96 | Andra Fluellen (6-4, 278, So.) |
| DE | 95 | Kameron Wimbley (6-4, 234, Sr.) |
| SLB | 34 | Ernie Sims (6-0, 220, Jr.) |
| MLB | 7 | Buster Davis (5-11, 237, Jr.) |
| WLB | 54 | A.J. Nicholson (6-2, 235, Sr.) |
| LCB | 11 | Gerard Ross (6-2, 198, Sr.) |
| RCB | 13 | Antonio Cromartie (6-3, 202, Jr.) |
| FS | 22 | Pat Watkins (6-4, 195, So.) |
| RV | 41 | Kyle Hall (6-1, 201, Sr.) |

SPECIALISTS

| | | |
|----|----|--------------------------------|
| PK | 12 | Gary Cismesia (5-11, 206, So.) |
| P | 48 | Chris Hall (5-10, 216, Sr.) |

RATING THE RECRUITS

1. Fred Rouse, WR
Widely regarded as the nation's top wideout.
2. Antone Smith, TB
Another recruit considered the best at his position.
3. Callahan Bright, DT
One of the top five defensive linemen in '05 class.
4. Derek Nicholson, LB
Brother of FSU starting linebacker A.J. Nicholson.
5. Geno Hayes, LB
First-team Parade All-American.

2004 TEAM STATS

| TEAM STATISTICS | FSU | OPP |
|----------------------|------------|------------|
| SCORING | 302 | 169 |
| Points Per Game | 25.2 | 14.1 |
| FIRST DOWNS | 232 | 186 |
| Rushing | 109 | 65 |
| Passing | 99 | 95 |
| Penalty | 24 | 26 |
| RUSHING YARDAGE | 1944 | 997 |
| Yards gained rushing | 2338 | 1471 |
| Yards lost rushing | 394 | 474 |
| Rushing Attempts | 460 | 418 |
| Average Per Rush | 4.2 | 2.4 |
| Average Per Game | 162.0 | 83.1 |
| TDs Rushing | 19 | 5 |
| PASSING YARDAGE | 2526 | 2409 |
| Att-Cmp-Int | 402-215-15 | 380-204-16 |
| Average Per Pass | 6.3 | 6.3 |
| Average Per Catch | 11.7 | 11.8 |
| Average Per Game | 210.5 | 200.8 |
| TDs Passing | 11 | 8 |
| TOTAL OFFENSE | 4470 | 3406 |
| Total Plays | 862 | 798 |
| Average Per Play | 5.2 | 4.3 |
| Average Per Game | 372.5 | 283.8 |
| KICK RETURNS: #-YDS | 31-629 | 38-906 |
| PUNT RETURNS: #-YDS | 53-597 | 35-274 |
| INT RETURNS: #-YDS | 16-164 | 15-116 |
| KICK RETURN AVERAGE | 20.3 | 23.8 |
| PUNT RETURN AVERAGE | 11.3 | 7.8 |
| INT RETURN AVERAGE | 10.2 | 7.7 |
| FUMBLES-LOST | 16-7 | 22-13 |
| PENALTIES-YARDS | 116-1034 | 82-689 |
| Average Per Game | 86.2 | 57.4 |
| PUNTS-YARDS | 70-2914 | 87-3535 |
| Average Per Punt | 41.6 | 40.6 |
| Net punt average | 37.7 | 33.8 |
| TIME OF POS./GAME | 30:36 | 29:24 |
| 3RD-DOWN CONV. | 42/177 | 46/179 |
| 3rd-Down Pct | 24% | 26% |
| 4TH-DOWN CONV. | 15/20 | 4/13 |
| 4th-Down Pct | 75% | 31% |
| SACKS BY-YARDS | 39-249 | 29-211 |
| MISC YARDS | 70 | 66 |
| TOUCHDOWNS SCORED | 33 | 18 |
| FIELD GOALS-ATTEMPTS | 23-34 | 15-21 |
| PAT-ATTEMPTS | 33-33 | 14-16 |
| ATTENDANCE | 497047 | 259567 |
| Games/Avg Per Game | 6/82841 | 5/51913 |
| Neutral Site Games | 1/70112 | |

| SCORE BY QTRS | 1st | 2nd | 3rd | 4th | OT | Total |
|---------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|-------|
| Florida State | 47 | 71 | 92 | 92 | 0 | 302 |
| Opponents | 49 | 57 | 25 | 32 | 6 | 169 |

2004

INDIVIDUAL STATS
OFFENSE

| PASSING | GP | Att. | Net Avg. | TD | Avg/G |
|-------------------|-----------|-------------|-----------|------|--------------|
| Wyatt Sexton | GP Effic. | Att-Cmp-Int | Pct. | Yds. | TD Avg/G |
| Leon Washington | 10 | 114.65 | 252-139-8 | 55.2 | 1661 8 166.1 |
| Chris Rix | GP Effic. | Att-Cmp-Int | Pct. | Yds. | TD Avg/G |
| Lorenzo Booker | 8 | 87.02 | 149-76-7 | 51.0 | 865 3 108.1 |
| RUSHING | GP | Att. | Net Avg. | TD | Avg/G |
| Leon Washington | 10 | 138 | 951 | 6.9 | 7 95.1 |
| Lorenzo Booker | 12 | 173 | 887 | 5.1 | 4 73.9 |
| James Coleman | 12 | 28 | 87 | 3.1 | 4 7.2 |
| RECEIVING | GP | No. | Yds. | Avg. | TD Avg/G |
| Chauncey Stovall | 12 | 53 | 780 | 14.7 | 6 65.0 |
| Gronkowski Thorpe | 11 | 40 | 496 | 12.4 | 2 45.1 |
| Lorenzo Booker | 12 | 24 | 160 | 6.7 | 0 13.3 |

DEFENSE

| TACKLES | GP | Solo | Ast. | Total |
|-------------------|-----|------|------|-------|
| A.J. Nicholson | 12 | 39 | 49 | 88 |
| Ernie Sims | 12 | 41 | 45 | 86 |
| Jerome Carter | 12 | 40 | 34 | 74 |
| SACKS | GP | No. | Yds. | . |
| Chauncey Davis | 12 | 5.0 | 41 | |
| Charles Howard | 12 | 5.0 | 25 | |
| Ernie Sims | 12 | 4.5 | 38 | |
| INTERCEPTIONS | No. | Yds. | Avg. | TD |
| Antonio Cromartie | 4 | 40 | 10.0 | 1 |
| Pat Watkins | 4 | 63 | 15.8 | 0 |
| Leroy Smith | 2 | 41 | 20.5 | 1 |

"We lost some good receivers, but Florida State will always have some good young ones coming up," the head coach says. "I think Chris Davis is ready to live up to his potential. Willie Reid is as good as any of them if we can just keep him healthy."

Reid also stars on special teams. In 2004, he broke Deion Sanders' school record for punt-return yards in a season, running 38 back for 522 yards. Washington and junior cornerback Antonio Cromartie are game-breaking kickoff returners.

With many of its offensive linemen on the mend, and questions remaining at quarterback, FSU may need its defense to carry the team, at least early in the season. Andrews' charges should be equal to the task. A season ago, the 'Noles ranked third nationally in rushing defense (83.1 yards per game) and fourth in scoring defense (14.1 ppg), and they look tough again.

Among other assets, the Seminoles boast what many consider the nation's top set of linebackers, led by returning starters Ernie Sims, Buster Davis and A.J. Nicholson. "I wouldn't swap with anybody, I know that," Bowden says.

Sims, a second-team All-ACC choice last year, and Davis are juniors, while Nicholson is a senior. Backups include Marcello Church, Sam McGrew, Jae Thaxton and Lawrence Timmons. Nicholson, whose brother Derek, a touted prep linebacker, joins the program this year, led Florida State with

IN PROFILE ...

ERNIE SIMS

Hard-hitting, athletic Sims makes most noise for potent linebacking corps

Ernie Sims is the hardest hitter in the ACC, and perhaps all of college football.

Just ask Cleveland Browns tight end Kellen Winslow.

Better yet, don't—he may not remember.

To recap, during Sims' freshman year at Florida State, he came up on the the former Miami All-American so quick and hard, Winslow's helmet flew off. Since then, opposing players have been put on notice: know where Sims is at all times.

"Very, very, very intense and explosive" is how FSU linebackers coach Kevin Steele describes Sims' hitting style, adding, "the more that he can explode on contact, the more he creates it."

As loud as Sims hits on the field, however, he is as quiet off of it. He grew up in Tallahassee, attending North Florida Christian, a private high school with less than 300 students. He's very close to his family, which includes his father, Ernie (a former FSU running back who is now an ordained minister), mother Alice (an All-America track star at FSU) and brother Marcus, a 6-2, 220-pound high school junior linebacker being courted by all of the major Division I schools.

"The first thing you have to understand about Ernie is how truly great of a person he really is," says Steele, the former head coach at Baylor and a longtime NFL defensive assistant. "He has all the right character properties; he's a good student and respectful."

"And on the field, he is a phenomenal athlete. And when I say phenomenal, I mean the top one to two percent I've seen. He plays the game with a

88 tackles in 2004, including 11.5 for loss. Sims' 86 stops included nine tackles for loss, and Davis contributed eight for loss.

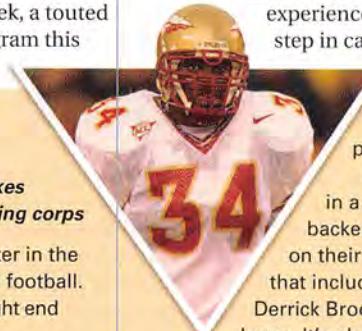
"Our linebackers are the most solid group we've got, no doubt about it," Bowden says. "It's not just the starters, but the second-liners as well."

The heart of Florida State's 2004 defensive line is now in the NFL, but talent remains. Among those back are senior Brodrick Bunkley and junior Clifton Dickson, who split time at nose guard last season. Dickson, who's listed at 6-4, 310 pounds, starred during spring drills.

End Kamerion Wimbley, a 6-4, 234-pound senior, was voted FSU's most dominant player in spring practice. Candidates at the other end spot include juniors Darrell Burston and Willie Jones and sophomore Alex Boston. The probable starter at tackle is Andre Fluellen, a 6-4, 278-pound sophomore.

In the secondary, the brightest star is Cromartie. He wasn't a full-time starter in 2004—Cromartie was FSU's nickel corner—yet still managed to earn a spot on the All-ACC first team.

Senior Pat Watkins, Florida State's fifth-leading tackler last year, is back at free safety. Watkins and Cromartie each intercepted four passes in 2004. At rover, senior Kyler Hall has starting experience, and senior Gerard Ross should step in capably at the other corner spot.



passion that is rare at a level he's at."

Sims (6-0, 220 pounds) is the latest in a long line of strong, athletic linebackers that have stopped in Tallahassee on their way to a solid NFL career. It's a list that includes the likes of Michael Boulware, Derrick Brooks, Sam Cowart and Marvin Jones. It's also a group Sims says he watched growing up, and one reason why he never left Tallahassee after graduating from North Florida Christian in 2002.

"Those guys are legends here," Sims says.

"This university has seen so many; I think to be like them and where they are is a goal of all the linebackers here."

Sims is part of possibly the best linebacker trio in the country, with senior A.J. Nicholson and junior Buster Davis. The three combined for 28.5 tackles for loss and 9.5 sacks last season, with each finishing among the top four in tackles on the team.

"Last year, we were among the top [producers] on our defense," Sims says. "All of us have a competitiveness about us, as to who can make the biggest hit or have the most interceptions."

And with the Seminoles losing their starting QB and two receivers to graduation last year, the defense may be called upon to keep the team in games early this season. That's just fine by Sims.

"I believe the defense is one of the strong points on this team; there's a lot of strong athletes," Sims says. "I don't see a whole lot of people scoring over seven [points] on us ... Our goal is to keep people under 15 every game."

"Our offense is going to depend on our defense, so there will be times when we need to bring the whole team up."

—Matt McKenzie

BOSTON COLLEGE

EAGLES



CHESTNUT HILL, MASS.

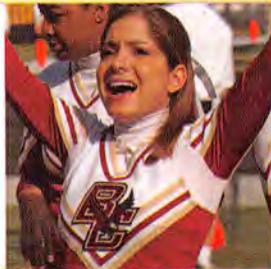
2004 Record: 9-3 overall, 4-2 Big East (beat North Carolina in the Continental Tire Bowl, 37-24)

Stadium: Alumni Stadium

Turf: Artificial

Capacity: 44,500

Official athletic Web site: www.bceagles.com



FIVE-YEAR WINS TREND

| | | | | |
|------|------|------|------|------|
| 7 | 8 | 9 | 8 | 9 |
| 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 |

PRESEASON RANK:

2

Head coach: Tom O'Brien, 9th Year (57-39) Career Record: 57-39

Assistant coaches: Jerry Peterkuskie (asst. head coach/recruiting coord./special teams), Dana Bible (off. coord./QBs/WRs), Jim Bridge (TEs), Frank Spaziani (def. coord.), Don Horton (off. line), Kevin Lempa (def. backs), Bill McGovern (LBs), Jason Swepson (RBs), Keith Willis (def. line)

Talent-laden defense will allow Eagles to fly high in first season on Tobacco Road

Neither Virginia Tech nor Miami found its inaugural season in the ACC overwhelming after bolting the Big East. A year later, look for another former Big East member, Boston College, to thrive in its new surroundings.

In eight seasons under Tom O'Brien, a former Virginia assistant whose record as a head coach is 57-39, the Eagles have steadily raised their national profile. Not since 1998 has BC failed to win at least seven games, winning at least eight in each of the last four years. The Eagles posted a 9-3 record in the 2004 campaign and were ranked No. 21 at season's end. There's no reason to believe they will descend into mediocrity as ACC members.

In 2004, BC finished 4-2 in the Big East to earn a share of the conference title. Had the Eagles not stumbled in the regular-season finale against Syracuse, losing 43-17 without their starting quarterback, they would have won the Big East title outright and advanced to the BCS. Instead, they traveled to the heart of ACC country, Charlotte, N.C., and took out their disappointment on one of their soon-to-be ACC brethren, whipping North Carolina 37-24 in the Continental Tire Bowl. The postseason victory was BC's fifth straight.

Will O'Brien's ninth team enter its regular-season finale bidding for a BCS berth? Probably not. But this won't be a team that ACC counterparts are eager to face. BC's players are well-coached, experienced and rugged. The class that O'Brien landed in February wasn't as highly regarded as some he's had, but the former Marine picked up a valuable "recruit" for 2005 when All-American Mathias Kiwanuka announced he would return for his senior year.

A 6-7, 261-pound defensive end, Kiwanuka was the Big East Defensive Player of the Year in 2004. He had 24.5 tackles for loss, including 11.5 sacks, and should be a force in the ACC as well.

Seven starters are back on offense and eight on defense. The latter group includes not only Kiwanuka but senior Will Blackmon, who made the All-Big East second team last season at cornerback and return specialist. Blackmon, an exceptional athlete, may play some offense as well this year. He worked exclusively at wide receiver

during spring practice, after which O'Brien said a final decision on where Blackmon would line up this fall wouldn't come until the end of summer.

In BC's spring game, Blackmon led all receivers with 10 catches for 135 yards.

Paul Peterson, who sparkled at quarterback last season, passing for 2,594 yards and 18 touchdowns, is gone. But O'Brien hasn't been forced to turn the job over to a rookie. Fifth-year senior Quinton Porter, who started 10 games in 2003, is back after redshirting last season. Two years ago, Porter passed for 1,764 yards and 14 TDs before injuring his hand late in the season. Porter edged sophomore Matt Ryan for the starting job during spring practice.

Sitting out last season wasn't easy for Porter, but "I think it was a good thing for him," O'Brien says. "He was able to take in a lot of things and learn from them."

Porter says: "It was definitely frustrating at times. There were a lot of times when you want to be out there and you're thinking, 'Hey, I could make that play.' Obviously, that's just the way it is. I'm a very competitive guy."

The 6-5, 233-pound Porter has three talented tailbacks to hand off to in Andre Callender, L.V. Whitworth and A.J. Brooks. Together, they rushed for 1,579 yards and 10 touchdowns last year. Callender led the way with 637 yards.

"That's such a great position for our team to be in," Porter says, "to have three running backs who can step up and get some positive yardage for you."

Their lead blocker again will be fullback Mark Palmer, a 6-3, 245-pound junior. There's plenty of beef up front as well. All five starters on the line are back, led by senior center Pat Ross and senior tackle Jeremy Trueblood, both All-Big East second-team selections in 2004.

Boston College likes to bill itself as "O-line U." That qualified as false advertising last year. The Eagles' line was solid but didn't distinguish itself the way many of its predecessors had.

"Last year we had some growing pains," says O'Brien, who believes his returning players should be better prepared in 2005 "to live up to our expectations for offensive linemen at Boston College."

Back in addition to Ross and Trueblood, a 6-9, 330-pound giant, are sophomore tackle Gosder Cherilus (6-7, 310) and junior guards Josh Beckman and James Marten (6-8, 313). David Kashetta, a second-team All-Big East pick at



WILL BLACKMON, WR/CB

2005 SCHEDULE

| DATE | OPPONENT | '04 RESULT |
|-------|----------------------|------------|
| S. 3 | @BRIGHAM YOUNG | |
| S. 10 | Army | |
| S. 17 | Florida State | |
| S. 24 | @CLEMSON | |
| O. 1 | Ball State | 19-11 |
| O. 8 | Virginia | |
| O. 15 | Wake Forest | 14-17 |
| O. 27 | @VIRGINIA TECH | |
| N. 5 | @NORTH CAROLINA | |
| N. 12 | North Carolina State | |
| N. 19 | @MARYLAND | |

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 15
Lettermen returning/lost: 39/15

OFFENSE

| | |
|----|-------------------------------------|
| QB | 15 Quinton Porter (6-5, 233, Sr.) |
| FB | 49 Mark Palmer (6-3, 245, Jr.) |
| TB | 32 Andre Callender (5-11, 199, So.) |
| LT | 72 Jeremy Trueblood (6-9, 330, Sr.) |
| LG | 70 James Marten (6-8, 313, Jr.) |
| C | 66 Patrick Ross (6-4, 295, Sr.) |
| RG | 75 Josh Beckman (6-2, 320, Jr.) |
| RT | 77 Gosder Cherilus (6-7, 310, So.) |
| TE | 88 Chris Miller (6-5, 258, Sr.) |
| WR | 6 Larry Lester (5-8, 183, Sr.) |
| WR | 1 Will Blackmon (6-0, 202) |

DEFENSE

| | |
|-----|-------------------------------------|
| DE | 94 Mathias Kiwanuka (6-7, 261, Sr.) |
| DT | 56 Al Washington (6-1, 280, Sr.) |
| DT | 58 Justin Bell (6-3, 308, Jr.) |
| DE | 57 Nick Larkin (6-4, 246, So.) |
| OLB | 16 Brian Toal (6-1, 223, So.) |
| MLB | 3 Ray Henderson (6-3, 227, Sr.) |
| OLB | 55 Ricky Brown (6-2, 288, Sr.) |
| CB | 27 DeJuan Tribble (5-9, 187, So.) |
| CB | 4 Jazzen Williams (5-8, 181, Sr.) |
| FS | 9 Larry Anam (6-0, 197, Jr.) |
| SS | 24 Ryan Glasper (6-0, 205, Jr.) |

SPECIALISTS

| | |
|----|----------------------------------|
| PK | 37 Ryan Ohliger (5-9, 195, So.) |
| P | 46 Johnny Ayers (5-11, 179, So.) |

RATING THE RECRUITS

- Pat Sheil, OL
Ranked among top 10 prospects in Virginia.
- Matt Tennant, OL
Product of storied Cincinnati Moeller program.
- Mike McLaughlin, LB
One of the top five prospects in New England.
- Andre Jones, DB
Versatile athlete; has played QB, WR, DB and RB.
- Paul Anderson, DB
First-team All-New York City as a senior.



2004 TEAM STATS

| TEAM STATISTICS | BC | OPP |
|----------------------|------------|------------|
| SCORING | 347 | 203 |
| Points Per Game | 28.9 | 16.9 |
| FIRST DOWNS | 242 | 213 |
| Rushing | 92 | 79 |
| Passing | 130 | 122 |
| Penalty | 20 | 12 |
| RUSHING YARDAGE | 1681 | 1546 |
| Yards gained rushing | 1993 | 1823 |
| Yards lost rushing | 312 | 277 |
| Rushing Attempts | 449 | 441 |
| Average Per Rush | 3.7 | 3.5 |
| Average Per Game | 140.1 | 128.8 |
| TDS Rushing | 12 | 12 |
| PASSING YARDAGE | 2944 | 2448 |
| Att-Cmp-Int | 426-256-13 | 396-231-17 |
| Average Per Pass | 6.9 | 6.2 |
| Average Per Catch | 11.5 | 10.6 |
| Average Per Game | 245.3 | 204.0 |
| TDS Passing | 20 | 10 |
| TOTAL OFFENSE | 4625 | 3994 |
| Total Plays | 875 | 837 |
| Average Per Play | 5.3 | 4.8 |
| Average Per Game | 385.4 | 332.8 |
| KICK RETURNS: #-YDS | 38-998 | 50-760 |
| PUNT RETURNS: #-YDS | 33-392 | 25-179 |
| INT RETURNS: #-YDS | 17-136 | 13-232 |
| KICK RETURN AVERAGE | 26.3 | 15.2 |
| PUNT RETURN AVERAGE | 11.9 | 7.2 |
| INT RETURN AVERAGE | 8.0 | 17.8 |
| FUMBLES-LOST | 16-9 | 15-5 |
| PENALTIES-YARDS | 87-699 | 76-697 |
| Average Per Game | 58.2 | 58.1 |
| PUNTS-YARDS | 63-2479 | 80-3210 |
| Average Per Punt | 39.3 | 40.1 |
| Net punt average | 36.5 | 35.2 |
| TIME OF POSS./GAME | 30:11 | 29:49 |
| 3RD-DOWN CONV. | 74/196 | 73/193 |
| 3rd-Down Pct. | 38% | 38% |
| 4TH-DOWN CONV. | 12/23 | 7/15 |
| 4th-Down Pct. | 52% | 47% |
| SACKS BY-YARDS | 24-139 | 23-136 |
| MISC YARDS | 0 | 0 |
| TOUCHDOWNS SCORED | 37 | 23 |
| FIELD GOALS-ATTEMPTS | 31-20 | 14-21 |
| PAT-ATTEMPTS | 32-35 | 21-23 |
| ATTENDANCE | 215952 | 240239 |
| Games/Avg Per Game | 5/43190 | 6/40040 |
| Neutral Site Games | | |
| | 1/70412 | |

| SCORE BY QTRS | 1st | 2nd | 3rd | 4th | OT | Total |
|----------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|-------|
| Boston College | 85 | 77 | 48 | 86 | 0 | 296 |
| Opponents | 64 | 60 | 40 | 36 | 3 | 203 |

2004

INDIVIDUAL STATS
OFFENSE

PASSING

| Paul Peterson | GP | Effic. | Att-Cmp-Int | Pct. | Yds. | TD | Avg/G |
|---------------|--------|------------|-------------|------|------|-------|-------|
| 11 | 134.73 | 355-221-10 | 62.3 | 2594 | 18 | 235.8 | |

Matt Ryan

| Matt Ryan | GP | Effic. | Att-Cmp-Int | Pct. | Yds. | TD | Avg/G |
|-----------|-------|---------|-------------|------|------|------|-------|
| 7 | 91.55 | 71-35-3 | 49.3 | 350 | 2 | 50.0 | |

RUSHING

| Andre Callender | GP | Att. | Net. Avg. | TD | Avg/G | |
|-----------------|-----|------|-----------|-----|-------|------|
| 9 | 138 | 637 | 4.6 | 2 | 70.8 | |
| L.V. Whitworth | 9 | 143 | 623 | 4.4 | 5 | 69.2 |
| A.J. Brooks | 7 | 57 | 319 | 5.6 | 3 | 45.6 |

RECEIVING

| Grant Adams | GP | No. | Yds. | Avg. | TD | Avg/G |
|--------------|----|-----|------|------|------|-------|
| 12 | 52 | 745 | 14.3 | 3 | 62.1 | |
| Larry Lester | 8 | 35 | 515 | 14.7 | 2 | 64.4 |
| Joel Hazard | 12 | 34 | 413 | 12.1 | 5 | 34.4 |

DEFENSE

| TACKLES | GP | Solo | Ast. | Total |
|---------------|----|------|------|-------|
| Ricky Brown | 12 | 52 | 29 | 81 |
| Brian Toal | 12 | 37 | 40 | 77 |
| Ray Henderson | 12 | 33 | 42 | 75 |

SACKS

| Mathias Kiwanuka | GP | No. | Yds. |
|------------------|------|-----|------|
| 12 | 11.5 | 82 | |

Tim Bulman

| Phil Mettling | GP | No. | Yds. |
|---------------|-----|-----|------|
| 11 | 3.0 | 14 | |

INTERCEPTIONS

| Ray Henderson | No. | Yds. | Avg. | TD |
|---------------|-----|------|------|----|
| 6 | 52 | 8.7 | 0 | |

| Will Blackmon | No. | Yds. | Avg. | TD |
|---------------|-----|------|------|----|
| 3 | 9 | 3.0 | 0 | |

| Mathias Kiwanuka | No. | Yds. | Avg. | TD |
|------------------|-----|------|------|----|
| 2 | 32 | 16.0 | 1 | |

tight end, exhausted his eligibility. His probable replacement is senior Chris Miller, who caught 20 passes last year.

The Blackmon-at-wideout experiment was partly a response to the departures of Grant Adams and Joel Hazard, who had 51 career starts between them. Adams, who made the All-Big East second team, led the Eagles with 52 catches for 745 yards (3 TDs) last year. Hazard had a team-high five TD receptions and 34 catches overall.

Some experience returns at wideout, however, most notably in the 5-8 frame of senior Larry Lester. BC's second-leading receiver in 2004, Lester had 35 catches for 515 yards in only eight games. Also back are juniors Jason Lilly and Tony Gonzalez, whose acrobatic 30-yard touchdown catch with 54 seconds left lifted BC to a dramatic win over Notre Dame last season.

Veteran defensive coordinator Frank Spaziani has few holes to fill. His biggest losses were tackle Tim Bulman and safety T.J. Stancil, both second-team all-conference picks. They'll be tough to replace, but BC has veterans at virtually every other spot on the defense.

For the first time in O'Brien's tenure at Chestnut Hill, he has all three of his starting linebackers back. The old men of the corps are seniors Ray Henderson and Ricky Brown. The baby is sophomore Brian Toal, who as a true freshman in 2004 was named Big East Rookie of the Year.

The 6-3, 227-pound Henderson, who plays in the middle, was a second-team All-Big East selection. Few college 'backers are better in coverage than Henderson, who led BC with six interceptions and broke up three other passes.

Brown, with 81 stops, was the Eagles' leading tackler, and Toal was second with 77. Brown also recovered two fumbles and forced two others.

Assuming Blackmon lines up in his customary spot at cornerback at least some of the time, Boston College's secondary should be another strength. Starter Ryan Glasper is back at strong safety, as is backup Jamie Silva. At free safety, junior Larry Anam is expected to take over for Stancil, who excelled at run support. Senior Jazzmen Williams, who's only 5-foot-8, returns at cornerback. During Blackmon's absence in the spring, sophomore DeJuan Tribble got extensive work at the other corner spot.

The line faces the big rebuilding job on the defense, with only Kiwanuka and senior tackle Al Washington back from the starting front four. Candidates at the other tackle spot include junior Justin Bell, sophomore B.J. Raji and redshirt freshman Ron Brace. To bolster the depth at end, O'Brien moved Jeff Burns there from linebacker and sophomore Ryan Thompson from tight end in the spring. Sophomore Nick Larkin and junior Jake Ottolini saw significant action there at the end of last season and are competing for a starting job.

Blackmon averaged 11.3 yards on punt returns and 27.2 yards on kickoff returns in 2004, returning one of each for a TD. His return bodes well for BC's special teams. Also back are punter Johnny Ayers, who missed spring practice while playing baseball for the Eagles, and kicker Ryan Ohliger.

Ayers averaged 39.3 yards as a true freshman last year. Classmate Ohliger made 13 of 19 field goals and 31 of 34 extra points. More impressive, perhaps, was his 21-yard run for a touchdown in the Continental Tire Bowl on a fake field goal. Ohliger, who'd been a running back in high school, broke two tackles on his way to the end zone against North Carolina in a play that clinched the Eagles' postseason win. ☐

IN PROFILE ...
MATHIAS KIWANUKA

Massive defensive end hopes decision to stay will improve draft status, BC's quest for a title

Shortly after Boston College's victory over North Carolina in the Continental Tire Bowl last December, Mathias Kiwanuka stood on the field, trying to soak up the atmosphere.

At the time, Kiwanuka had not yet decided whether to forgo his senior season for the NFL Draft, where analysts said he would have been a first-round pick.

"It was very emotional," the 6-7, 261-pound defensive end recalls. "I didn't know if it was my last game, and I realized how much I would miss these guys."

In the end, Kiwanuka decided the NFL could wait one more season. He returns to the Eagles as an All-America shoo-in and one of the top candidates for the Nagurski Award, given to the nation's top defensive player.

Kiwanuka says many things factored in to his decision to stay, but mainly he was interested in improving his game. But how much better can you get than the reigning Big East Defensive Player of the Year?

"There are still some areas in my game that were gray," says Kiwanuka, who has 28 sacks in his three seasons with the Eagles. "It was a new experience being double teamed and chipped [last year], so I want to have that perfected and be confident in my ability. I also talked to a lot of NFL veterans, and one thing they said is how they wished they had another year in college from a social standpoint."

Nicknamed "Kiwi" by his teammates, Kiwanuka is of Ugandan descent, where his parents, Emmanuel and Deodata, hail from originally. His grandfather, Benedicto, was the first prime minister of Uganda in 1961, but was later ordered to be assassinated in 1972 by notorious Ugandan dictator Idi Amin. To remember both his grandfather and his heritage, Kiwanuka has a Ugandan flag hanging in his room and last year received a tattoo of the Ugandan presidential seal on his back.

His heritage also helps Kiwanuka stay humble, as he's projected by most experts as the top defensive-line prospect in the 2006 NFL Draft.

"At times everything can be a little overwhelming," he says of the newfound fame. "But I haven't let anything get to me, because just as fast as it all comes, it can go away."

—Matt McKenzie



CLEMSON

TIGERS

CLEMSON, S.C.

2004 Record: 6-5, 4-4 ACC
Stadium: Clemson Memorial Stadium
Official athletic Web site: www.clemsonigers.com

Turf: Grass

Capacity: 81,473



FIVE-YEAR WINS TREND



PRESEASON RANK:

3

Head coach: Tommy Bowden, 7th Year (44-29) **Career Record:** 62-33
Assistant coaches: Rob Spence (off. coord./QB), Vic Koenning (def. coord.), Marion Hobby (DL), Dabo Swinney (WRs), Burton Burns (RBs), David Blackwell (LBs/recruiting coord.), Brad Scott (asst. head coach/off. line), Jack Hines (TEs), Ron West (DL)



CHARLIE WHITEHURST, QB

Bowden hopes ex-Toledo offensive coordinator can help Whitehurst, Tigers' offense bounce back from poor '04

Considering they started 1-4, the Tigers could take a measure of pride in the 6-5 record with which they finished in 2004, especially since they crushed archrival South Carolina in the finale.

Still, it was clear the program had stalled. Among ACC teams, Clemson (6-5, 4-4) ranked eighth in both scoring offense and scoring defense last year, which didn't go over well with coach Tommy Bowden (44-29 in six seasons).

In December, Bowden fired three of his assistants, including both coordinators. Their replacements, especially offensive coordinator Rob Spence, have Clemson fans buzzing. Spence, whose offenses at Toledo put up huge numbers, has incorporated a greater emphasis on the running game into the spread offense for which Bowden is known.

Moreover, Spence has scrapped the Tigers' tactic of hurrying to the line of scrimmage and then waiting for the play-call from the sideline, a maneuver that hasn't paid dividends in recent years. He's also cut down on use of the shotgun formation.

On defense, the new boss is Vic Koenning, who built a strong reputation as coordinator at Troy State. Koenning inherits six returning starters at Clemson, but must replace some serious talent. Among those gone from 2004 are linebacker LeRoy Hill, the ACC Defensive Player of the Year, and cornerback Justin Miller, who left early for the NFL. Miller made the All-ACC second team as a defensive back and a return specialist. Other key losses include safety Travis Pugh, the Tigers' second-leading tackler last fall, and tackle Eric Coleman, who had five sacks.

Clemson's top returning tackler is linebacker Anthony Waters, a 6-3, 235-pound junior. Also back at linebacker is junior Tramaine Billie. Hill's probable replacement is sophomore Nick Watkins, who made 53 stops last season.

Anchoring the secondary will be All-ACC candidates Tye Hill and Jamaal Fudge, a senior cornerback and senior safety, respectively. Hill is a former 100-meter outdoor champion in ACC track, while Fudge intercepted three passes last season. Junior Sergio Gilliam is likely to fill the other corner spot, and C.J. Gaddis has impressed at safety.

Up front, two starters return: senior end Charles Bennett and senior tackle Trey Tate. Bennett had 14 tackles for loss in 2004 and has All-ACC potential. Junior Gaines Adams will start at the other end. The projected starter at the other spot inside is senior Cory Groover, who was shot in the leg outside a South Carolina restaurant in May. Groover is expected to fully recover from his wound.

How well the Tigers fare this season will probably hinge on the play of senior quarterback Charlie Whitehurst. In 2003, when Clemson went 9-4, Whitehurst passed for 3,561 yards and 21 touchdowns. In 2004, he threw more than twice as many interceptions (17) as TD passes (seven) and completed a modest 50.7 percent of his attempts, for 2,067 yards. Among ACC quarterbacks, Whitehurst ranked last in passing efficiency. That's not indicative of his talent. Whitehurst holds more than 30 school records, including career-passing yardage (7,182), and has a chance to become the first Clemson QB to go 4-0 against South Carolina.

Six other starters return on offense. Four of the team's top five receivers from 2004 are back, but the one who's gone was the best of the bunch. Airese Currie led the ACC in catches and receiving yardage and was the first Clemson receiver named first-team all-conference in 13 years. The Tigers' go-to receiver this season may well be junior Chansi Stuckey, who had 25 catches for 280 yards in 2004. Stuckey tied a Clemson spring-game record this year with 11 catches for 124 yards. Other targets for Whitehurst include freshman Aaron Kelly, senior Curtis Baham and junior Kelvin Grant.

The Tigers' leading rusher in 2004, junior tailback Reggie Merriweather (670 yards, 11 TDs), returns. The status of senior Duane Coleman, the team's top rusher in 2003, is less certain. Coleman was suspended indefinitely during spring practice after an argument with the coaching staff.

The line has more talent than experience. Both tackles are back: junior Marion Dukes and sophomore Barry Richardson, who started eight games, the most by a true-freshman offensive lineman in school history. The veteran is junior guard Nathan Bennett. Back for a second stint at tight end is senior Bobby Williamson, who moved to defense last year and recorded five sacks. ☀

2005 SCHEDULE

| DATE | OPPONENT | '04 RESULT |
|-------|-----------------------|------------|
| S. 3 | Texas A&M | 6-27 |
| S. 10 | @MARYLAND | 10-7 |
| S. 17 | Miami (FL) | 24-17 (OT) |
| S. 24 | Boston College | |
| O. 1 | @WAKE FOREST | 37-30 (OT) |
| O. 13 | @NORTH CAROLINA STATE | 26-20 |
| O. 22 | Temple | |
| O. 29 | @GEORGIA TECH | 24-28 |
| N. 5 | Duke | 13-16 |
| N. 12 | Florida State | 22-41 |
| N. 19 | @SOUTH CAROLINA | 29-7 |

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 13
 Lettermen returning/lost: 47/17

OFFENSE

| | | |
|----|----|-------------------------------------|
| QB | 6 | Charlie Whitehurst (6-4, 225, Sr.) |
| FB | 36 | Cliff Harrell (6-1, 250, Sr.) |
| TB | 37 | Reggie Merriweather (5-8, 215, Jr.) |
| LT | 79 | Barry Richardson (6-7, 350, So.) |
| LG | 64 | Chip Myrick (6-4, 290, Sr.) |
| C | 62 | Dustin Fry (6-2, 315, Jr.) |
| RG | 63 | Nathan Bennett (6-5, 315, Jr.) |
| RT | 75 | Marion Dukes (6-4, 315, Jr.) |
| TE | 81 | Bobby Williamson (6-3, 255, Sr.) |
| WR | 2 | Chansi Stuckey (6-0, 190, Jr.) |
| WR | 88 | Kelvin Grant (6-2, 215, Jr.) |

DEFENSE

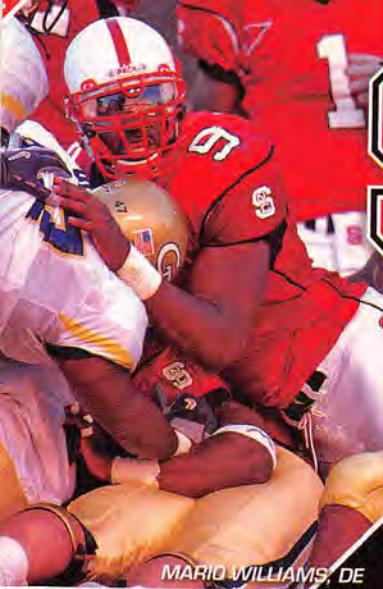
| | | |
|-----|----|---------------------------------|
| BAN | 93 | Gaines Adams (6-5, 250, Jr.) |
| NG | 7 | Cory Groover (6-3, 280, Sr.) |
| DT | 92 | Trey Tate (6-4, 275, Sr.) |
| DE | 86 | Charles Bennett (6-4, 245, Sr.) |
| SLB | 20 | Tramaine Billie (6-1, 205, Jr.) |
| MLB | 40 | Anthony Waters (6-3, 235, Jr.) |
| WLB | 32 | Nick Watkins (6-2, 210, So.) |
| CB | 8 | Tye Hill (5-10, 180, Sr.) |
| CB | 15 | Sergio Gilliam (6-3, 175, Jr.) |
| FS | 24 | Jamaal Fudge (5-10, 190, Sr.) |
| CAT | 12 | C.J. Gaddis (6-0, 205, So.) |

SPECIALISTS

| | | |
|----|----|-----------------------------|
| PK | 7 | Jad Dean (5-11, 208, Jr.) |
| P | 30 | Cole Chason (6-0, 163, Jr.) |

RATING THE RECRUITS

| | | |
|----|---------------------|--|
| 1. | James Davis, TB | Runned for 2,500 yards and 28 TDs as a senior. |
| 2. | Antonio Clay, LB | Turned down Miami, FSU and Oklahoma. |
| 3. | Corey Lambert, OL | Consensus top-25 tackle who goes 6-7, 300. |
| 4. | Josh Miller, LB | Returned three INTs for TDs in high school career. |
| 5. | Rendrick Taylor, WR | A big receiving target at 6-2, 215 pounds. |



N.C. STATE

WOLFPACK

RALEIGH, N.C.

2004 Record: 5-6 overall, 3-5 ACC

Stadium: Carter-Finley Stadium

Official athletic Web site: www.gopack.com

Turf: Grass

Capacity: 56,800

PRESEASON RANK:

FIVE-YEAR WINS TREND

4

8 7 11 8 5
2000 2001 2002 2003 2004

Head coach: Chuck Amato, 6th Year (39-23) Career Record: 39-23

Assistant coaches: Michael Barry (off. line), Curt Cignetti (TEs/recruiting coord.), Manny Diaz (safeties), Dwayne Dixon (WRs), Steve Dunlap (def. coord./LBs), Dick Portee (RBs), Todd Stroud (ass. head coach/def. line), Marc Trestman (off. coord./QBs), Greg Williams (CBs)



MARIO WILLIAMS, DE

2005 SCHEDULE

| DATE | OPPONENT | '04 RESULT |
|-------|------------------|------------|
| S. 3 | Virginia Tech | 17-16 |
| S. 10 | @TEMPLE | |
| S. 17 | Eastern Kentucky | |
| S. 24 | North Carolina | 24-30 |
| O. 6 | @GEORGIA TECH | 14-24 |
| O. 13 | Clemson | 20-26 |
| O. 22 | @WAKE FOREST | 27-21 (OT) |
| O. 29 | Southern Miss | |
| N. 5 | @FLORIDA STATE | 10-17 |
| N. 12 | @BOSTON COLLEGE | |
| N. 26 | Maryland | 13-3 |

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 15
Lettermen returning/lost: 38/18

OFFENSE

| | |
|-----|-----------------------------------|
| QB | 10 Jay Davis (6-2, 220, Sr.) |
| HB | 21 Tramain Hall (5-10, 190, Sr.) |
| TB | 20 Reggie Davis (6-1, 233, Jr.) |
| LT | 78 James Newby (6-5, 295, Jr.) |
| LG | 62 Dwayne Herndon (6-3, 286, Sr.) |
| C | 64 Leroy Harris (6-3, 295, Jr.) |
| RG | 75 John McKeon (6-5, 307, Sr.) |
| RT | 71 Derek Morris (6-6, 333, Jr.) |
| TE | 80 T.J. Williams (6-3, 253, Sr.) |
| FLK | 87 Brian Clark (6-3, 205, Sr.) |
| SE | 13 LaMart Barrett (6-1, 190, Jr.) |

DEFENSE

| | |
|-----|-------------------------------------|
| LE | 9 Mario Williams (6-7, 285, Jr.) |
| DT | 90 John McCargo (6-2, 295, Jr.) |
| DT | 72 Tank Tyler (6-2, 294, Jr.) |
| RE | 91 Manny Lawson (6-5, 245, Jr.) |
| SLB | 50 Stephen Tulloch (5-11, 230, Jr.) |
| MLB | 56 Pat Lowery (6-2, 240, Jr.) |
| WLB | 22 Oliver Hoyte (6-3, 252, Sr.) |
| LCB | 3 A.J. Davis (5-10, 188, Jr.) |
| RCB | 1 Marcus Hudson (6-2, 200, Sr.) |
| FS | 4 J.J. Jones (6-0, 178, Sr.) |
| ROV | 19 Garland Heath (6-2, 220, Jr.) |

SPECIALISTS

| | |
|----|---------------------------------|
| PK | 12 John Deraney (6-4, 215, Jr.) |
| P | 12 John Deraney (6-4, 215, Jr.) |

RATING THE RECRUITS

1. Toney Baker, TB
Parade All-American ran for 10,220 career yards.
2. Curtis Crouch, OL
Six-foot-6, 320-pounder has chance to play now.
3. Andre Brown, TB
Prep-schooler rushed for 3,479 yards in 2003.
4. Kyle Newell, WR
Will offer a huge target at 6-5, 220 pounds.
5. J.C. Neal, WR
Also starred as RB and DB in high school.

Offseason upheaval slows Wolfpack on road back from disappointing '04 campaign

Life without Philip Rivers was no fun for the Wolfpack in 2004. For the first time in five seasons under Chuck Amato, N.C. State (5-6, 3-5) won fewer than seven games and failed to advance to a bowl game. Amato's first four seasons as head coach at his alma mater, of course, coincided with Rivers' run as quarterback, and the Wolfpack went 34-17 during that period.

A season ago, State led the nation in total defense, allowing 221.4 yards per game, but ranked 78th in total offense. Rivers' replacement, Jay Davis, threw more interceptions (15) than touchdown passes (12), and the Wolfpack's top tailback, T.A. McLendon, continued his career-long battle with injuries.

"Last season did not turn out the way we wanted it to, but sometimes a step backwards can help you take three steps forward," says Amato, whose team opens Sept. 3 at home against reigning ACC champion Virginia Tech.

The offseason didn't start on a good note for Amato either. He lost three assistants: offensive coordinator Noel Mazzone to Mississippi, defensive coordinator Reggie Herring to Arkansas and assistant head coach Doc Holliday to Florida. Their replacements are Marc Trestman (offensive coordinator), Steve Dunlap (defensive coordinator) and Dwayne Dixon (wide receivers).

Trestman, the Miami Dolphins' assistant head coach and quarterbacks coach in 2004, also has been offensive coordinator for Miami, Arizona, San Francisco and Cleveland in the NFL. At N.C. State, he inherits seven returning starters, including Davis (2,104 yards passing), who should be more comfortable leading the attack. Sophomore Marcus Stone, a better runner than thrower, also returns at QB.

The Wolfpack's losses on offense were significant. McLendon, the sixth-leading rusher in school history, left early for the NFL, going undrafted. Wide receiver Richard Washington was dismissed from the team, and standout offensive linemen Jed Paulsen (center) and Chris Colmer (tackle) exhausted their eligibility, with Colmer being a third-round draft choice of the Tampa Bay Buccaneers.

Even without McLendon, though, the Pack is loaded at tailback, with such players as

Bobby Washington, Darrell Blackman and Reggie Davis returning. And watch out for true freshman Toney Baker, one of the nation's most heralded recruits.

The versatile Tramain Hall returns to play NCSU's hybrid halfback position. Hall, a senior, has totaled 97 receptions and 1,123 yards receiving in his career. Senior T.J. Williams, the Wolfpack's leader in catches (31) and receiving yards (382) last year, is back at tight end. Trestman's options at wideout include veterans Brian Clark, LaMart Barrett and Sterling Hicks. Another receiver, sophomore John Dunlap, started the final three games in 2004, but he's recovering from reconstructive knee surgery and may not be available this fall.

The returning starters on the line are junior tackle Derek Morris, senior guard John McKeon and junior Leroy Harris, an All-ACC candidate who has played guard and center, his position in the spring. In the mix at guard is senior Dwayne Herndon, a converted defensive tackle.

Dunlap, the defensive coordinator at Syracuse last year, walks into a great situation at N.C. State. The 'Pack has one of the nation's top defensive lines. Its leaders are ends Mario Williams, a 6-7, 285-pound junior, and Manny Lawson, a 6-5, 245-pound senior. Williams made the All-ACC first team in 2004, with Lawson making the second team. Lawson recorded seven sacks and Williams had 6.5.

Also back on this swift, swarming defense are tackles John McCargo and DeMarcus "Tank" Tyler plus linebackers Oliver Hoyte and Stephen Tulloch. Hoyte, a senior, led N.C. State in tackles last season with 93, and Tulloch had 75. Hoyte moved from middle to weakside linebacker in spring practice, which Tulloch sat out while recovering from shoulder surgery. Junior Pat Lowery, who led the Wolfpack in special-teams tackles last season, has a chance to start at middle linebacker.

Four regulars in the secondary departed, but senior Marcus Hudson, who started five games at free safety in 2004, is back at cornerback, his original position. Speedster A.J. Davis will probably start at the other corner. Possibilities at safety and rover include 6-2, 220-pound bruiser Garland Heath, DaJuan Morgan, J.J. Jones and Miguel Scott.

What these defensive backs lack in experience they should make up for in speed and raw talent.

Junior John Deraney will again handle the placekicking and punt duties for State. Back fielding punts is Blackman, who ranked third nationally last year with a 47.8-yard return average.

MARYLAND

TERRAPINS



2004 Record: 5-6 overall, 3-5 ACC
Official athletic Web site: www.umterps.com

The Terrapins, who could do little wrong in Ralph Friedgen's first three seasons as their coach, winning 31 games, fell back into the pack in 2004. Maryland (5-6, 3-5) dropped five of its last seven games, a free-fall that included a 55-6 loss to Virginia Tech on national TV.

Friedgen has long been renowned for his offensive wizardry, but his team struggled mightily to move the ball last year. The Terps finished ninth in the ACC in both rushing offense and passing offense and ranked ahead of only Duke (16.6 pg) in scoring offense.

Maryland's defense, led by end Shawne Merriman, a first-round NFL draft pick, and linebacker D'Qwell Jackson, was solid, but poor quarterback play doomed the offense. Joel Statham ranked ninth among ACC quarterbacks in passing efficiency and threw nearly twice as many picks (15) as touchdowns (8). Friedgen turned to Sam Hollenbach in the regular-season finale, and he completed 22 of 36 passes for 229 yards in a win over Wake Forest.

Hollenbach, a 6-5 junior, came out of spring practice with a slight lead on Statham. Sophomore Jordan Steffy may be in the mix this fall, too, but he missed spring practice because of arm and knee injuries.

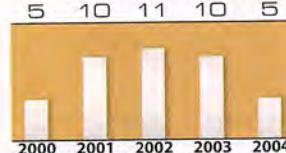
"We're better than what we were [at QB]," Friedgen says, "but we've got to continue to improve to be a good football team."

Statham, a junior, is one of six returning starters on offense. A seventh, tailback Josh Allen, is out for the season with a knee injury suffered against Wake. Gone is guard C.J. Brooks, one of three Terps to make the All-ACC first team in 2004 (along with Merriman and Jackson).

The offense's most dynamic player is H-back Vernon Davis, a 6-3, 250-pound junior with a wideout's speed. Davis led Maryland with 27 catches for 441 yards and three touchdowns. The top receivers are seniors Derrick Fenner and Jo Jo Walker, who like Davis are capable of making big plays if the quarterbacks can get the ball to them. At 6-8, 268 pounds, tight end Derek Miller is a formidable blocker.

Senior tackle Stephon Heyer is an All-ACC candidate with 24 career starts.

FIVE-YEAR WINS TREND



2005 SCHEDULE

| DATE | OPPONENT | '04 RESULT |
|-------|-----------------|------------|
| S. 3 | @NAVY | |
| S. 10 | Clemson | 7-10 |
| S. 17 | West Virginia | 16-19 (OT) |
| S. 24 | @WAKE FOREST | 13-7 |
| O. 1 | Virginia | 0-16 |
| O. 8 | @TEMPLE | 45-22 |
| O. 20 | Virginia Tech | 6-55 |
| O. 29 | @FLORIDA STATE | 20-17 |
| N. 12 | @NORTH CAROLINA | |
| N. 19 | Boston College | |
| N. 26 | @NC STATE | 3-13 |

Head coach: Ralph Friedgen,

5th Year (36-14)

Career Record: 36-14

Stadium: Byrd Stadium

Turf: Grass

Capacity: 51,500

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 13
Lettermen returning/lost: 39/21

OFFENSE

| | |
|----|-------------------------------------|
| QB | 14 Sam Hollenbach (6-5, 217, Jr.) |
| FB | 5 Ricardo Dickerson (6-1, 251, Sr.) |
| TB | 8 Mario Merrills (5-10, 202, Sr.) |
| LT | 70 Stephon Heyer (6-6, 321, Sr.) |
| LG | 69 Donnie Woods (6-3, 291, So.) |
| C | 63 Andrew Crummey (6-5, 292, So.) |
| RG | 77 Russell Bonham (6-2, 315, Sr.) |
| RT | 58 Brandon Nixon (6-6, 310, So.) |
| TE | 84 Derek Miller (6-8, 268, Sr.) |
| WR | 83 Derrick Fenner (5-11, 191, Sr.) |
| WR | 9 Jo Jo Walker (5-9, 171, Sr.) |

DEFENSE

| | |
|-----|---------------------------------------|
| LE | 98 Omarr Savage (6-5, 258, So.) |
| NT | 92 Dre Moore (6-4, 296, So.) |
| DT | 95 Conrad Bolston (6-3, 284, Jr.) |
| RE | 50 Jermaine Lemons (6-1, 248, So.) |
| SLB | 54 David Holloway (6-2, 222, Jr.) |
| MLB | 52 D'Qwell Jackson (6-0, 225, Sr.) |
| WLB | 48 William Kershaw (6-3, 227, Sr.) |
| LBC | 38 Gerrick McPearson (5-10, 194, Sr.) |
| RCB | 25 Josh Wilson (5-9, 183, Jr.) |
| FS | 23 Christian Varner (5-11, 195, So.) |
| SS | 12 Marcus Wimbush (5-11, 205, Jr.) |

SPECIALISTS

| | |
|----|----------------------------------|
| PK | 11 Dan Ennis (6-0, 151, Jr.) |
| P | 36 Adam Podlesh (5-11, 193, Jr.) |

WAKE FOREST

DEMON DEACONS



2004 Record: 4-7 overall, 1-7 ACC

Official athletic Web site: www.wakeforestsports.com

Forgive the Demon Deacons if they look back on 2004 and wonder what might have been.

For the first time in four seasons under coach Jim Grobe, Wake (4-7, 1-7) failed to win at least five games. Of the Deacons' seven defeats, however, only the 52-7 loss at Miami was a rout. Wake lost twice in overtime, two other times by seven points, once by six and once by three.

Grobe, 22-25 at Wake, is a solid coach, and his team has enough firepower to finish in the middle of the Atlantic Division pack and qualify for a bowl. But to do so, the Deacons must find a way to win close games. Nine starters return on offense; 10 if sophomore Ben Mauk is included. Mauk started the final three games at quarterback last season after taking over for Cory Randolph. A senior with 20 career starts, Randolph trailed Mauk slightly coming out of their spring competition, but Grobe won't pick a starter until preseason.

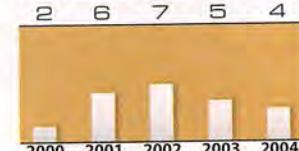
There's no debate about which tailback is Wake's best. Senior Chris Barclay, second-team All-ACC in 2003, was a first-team choice last year. He was one of only two ACC players to rush for more than 1,000 yards in 2004, finishing with 1,010 and nine touchdowns. Barclay needs 907 yards to become Wake's all-time leading rusher.

The only starters gone from the Deacons' 2004 offense are wideout Jason Anderson and center Blake Lingren. Sophomore Zac Selmon is back at tight end and junior Steve Vallos at tackle. Vallos made second-team All-ACC last season after starting at four positions.

Seven receivers who lettered last year are back, led by senior Chris Davis and juniors Nate Morton and Willie Idlette. Davis had six receptions for 123 yards in Wake's spring game.

From a defense that held five opponents, including ACC champion Virginia Tech, to fewer than 20 points, second-team all-conference cornerback Eric King is gone. Five starters are back: sophomore end Matt Robinson, senior tackle Goryal Scales, sophomore middle linebacker Jonathan Abbate and junior safeties Patrick Ghee and Josh Gattis. The 5-11, 245-pound Abbate was the second-leading vote-getter in balloting for ACC Rookie of the Year.

FIVE-YEAR WINS TREND



2005 SCHEDULE

| DATE | OPPONENT | '04 RESULT |
|-------|----------------------|------------|
| S. 1 | Vanderbilt | |
| S. 10 | @NEBRASKA | |
| S. 17 | East Carolina | 31-17 |
| S. 24 | Maryland | 7-13 |
| O. 1 | Clemson | 30-37 (OT) |
| O. 8 | @FLORIDA STATE | 17-20 |
| O. 15 | @BOSTON COLLEGE | 17-14 |
| O. 22 | North Carolina State | 21-27 (OT) |
| O. 29 | @DUKE | 24-22 |
| N. 5 | @GEORGIA TECH | |
| N. 17 | Miami (FL) | 7-52 |

Head coach: Jim Grobe,

5th Year, (22-25)

Career Record: 55-58-1

Stadium: Groves Stadium

Turf: Grass

Capacity: 31,500

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 16
Lettermen returning/lost: 43/18

OFFENSE

| | |
|----|-------------------------------------|
| QB | 8 Ben Mauk (6-1, 200, r-So.) |
| FB | 35 Richard Belton (6-1, 240, r-Fr.) |
| TB | 28 Chris Barclay (5-10, 180, Sr.) |
| LT | 72 Wesley Bryant (6-4, 300, r-Sr.) |
| LG | 61 Arby Jones (6-3, 277, r-Jr.) |
| C | 66 Greg Adkins (6-3, 292, r-Sr.) |
| RG | 79 Matthew Brim (6-4, 288, r-So.) |
| RT | 75 Steve Vallos (6-3, 297, r-Jr.) |
| TE | 84 Zac Selmon (6-5, 237, r-So.) |
| WR | 5 Chris Davis (5-10, 180, Sr.) |
| WR | 14 Kevin Marion (5-10, 160, r-So.) |

DEFENSE

| | |
|-----|--------------------------------------|
| DE | 42 Matt Robinson (6-2, 230, r-So.) |
| DT | 95 Zach Stukes (6-2, 260, r-So.) |
| DT | 57 Goryal Scales (6-0, 273, r-Sr.) |
| DE | 98 Jeremy Thompson (6-5, 250, So.) |
| SLB | 44 Jason Pratt (6-0, 230, r-Jr.) |
| MLB | 40 Jon Abbate (5-11, 245, r-So.) |
| WLB | 51 Pierre Easley (6-0, 245, r-Jr.) |
| CB | 7 Riley Swanson (5-11, 188, r-Jr.) |
| CB | 23 Johnny Edwards (5-10, 188, r-So.) |
| FS | 22 Josh Gattis (6-1, 212, r-Jr.) |
| SS | 30 Patrick Ghee (6-0, 202, r-Jr.) |

SPECIALISTS

| | |
|----|-------------------------------------|
| PK | 38 Sam Swank (6-1, 180, r-Fr.) |
| P | 81 Ryan Plackemeier (6-4, 235, Sr.) |



MARCUS VICK, QB

2005 SCHEDULE

| DATE | OPPONENT | '04 RESULT |
|-------|-----------------------|------------|
| S. 3 | @NORTH CAROLINA STATE | 16-17 |
| S. 10 | @DUKE | 41-17 |
| S. 17 | Ohio | |
| S. 24 | Georgia Tech | 34-20 |
| O. 1 | @WEST VIRGINIA | 19-13 |
| O. 8 | Marshall | |
| O. 20 | @MARYLAND | 55-6 |
| O. 27 | Boston College | |
| N. 5 | Miami (FL) | 16-10 |
| N. 19 | @VIRGINIA | 24-10 |
| N. 26 | North Carolina | 27-24 |

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 14
Lettermen returning/lost: 44/19

OFFENSE

| | | |
|----|----|-----------------------------------|
| QB | 5 | Marcus Vick (6-0, 212, r-Jr.) |
| FB | 37 | Jesse Allen (6-0, 244, r-Jr.) |
| TB | 20 | Mike Imoh (5-7, 195, Sr.) |
| LT | 52 | Jimmy Martin (6-5, 305, Sr.) |
| LG | 66 | Will Montgomery (6-3, 301, r-Sr.) |
| C | 69 | Danny McGrath (6-2, 283, r-Jr.) |
| RG | 72 | Jason Murphy (6-2, 303, r-Sr.) |
| RT | 61 | Reggie Butler (6-6, 344, Sr.) |
| TE | 90 | Jeff King (6-5, 246, r-Sr.) |
| FL | 19 | Josh Hyman (5-11, 188, r-So.) |
| FL | 4 | Eddie Royal (5-10, 174, So.) |

DEFENSE

| | | |
|-----|----|------------------------------------|
| DE | 96 | Noland Burchette (6-2, 352, r-Jr.) |
| DT | 99 | Carlton Powell (6-2, 285, r-So.) |
| DT | 56 | Jonathan Lewis (6-1, 308, Sr.) |
| DE | 55 | Darryl Tapp (6-1, 268, Sr.) |
| LB | 42 | James Anderson (6-3, 222, r-Sr.) |
| LB | 9 | Vince Hall (6-0, 246, r-So.) |
| LB | 11 | Xavier Adibi (6-2, 224, r-So.) |
| CB | 15 | Roland Minor (6-0, 198, r-So.) |
| CB | 2 | Jimmy Williams (6-3, 206, Sr.) |
| FS | 25 | D.J. Parker (5-11, 181, So.) |
| ROV | 36 | Aaron Rouse (6-3, 222, r-Jr.) |

SPECIALISTS

| | | |
|----|----|---------------------------------|
| PK | 46 | Brandon Pace (5-10, 199, r-Jr.) |
| P | 23 | Nic Schmitt (6-1, 254, r-Jr.) |

RATING THE RECRUITS

- Victor "Macho" Harris, CB
Parade All-American and top-rated recruit in Va.
- Ike Whitaker, QB
Offensive Player of the Year in the D.C. area.
- Elan Lewis, TB
Ran for 4,795 yards, 75 TDs last two prep seasons.
- Deveon Simmons, LB
Punishing tackler with tremendous speed.
- Greg Boone, QB
At 6-4, 240 pounds, moves very well for a big QB.

VT VIRGINIA TECH HOKIES

2004 Record: 10-3 overall, 7-1 ACC (*lost to Auburn in the Sugar Bowl, 16-13*)

Stadium: Lane Stadium

Official athletic Web site: www.hokiesports.com

Turf: Grass

Capacity: 65,115

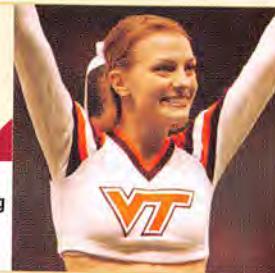
PRESEASON RANK:

FIVE-YEAR WINS TREND



Head coach: Frank Beamer, 19th Year (135-77-2) Career Record: 177-100-4

Assistant coaches: **Billy Hite** (assoc. head coach/RBs), **Bud Foster** (def. coord./ILBs), **Bryan Stinespring** (off. coord./off. line), **Jim Cavanaugh** (recruiting coord./SS/OLBs), **Tony Ball** (WRs), **Danny Pearman** (TEs/off. tackles), **Kevin Rogers** (QBs), **Lorenzo Ward** (def. backfield), **Charley Wiles** (def. line)



Hokies loaded at the skill positions, but can troubled new QB lead them to Vick-tory?

Frank Beamer is wary, and for good reason. The Hokies' longtime coach remembers 2003 all too well. With such stars as Kevin Jones, Jake Grove and DeAngelo Hall on the roster, Tech had serious talent that season and climbed to No. 3 in the polls. But the Hokies, beset by poor chemistry and selfishness, lost five of their final seven games to finish 8-5 and unranked.

"The guys on this team remember what happened around here two years ago, which wasn't too much fun. And they were here last year when we had a lot of fun. They understand what it takes and how a team that's united can win," Beamer says. "I think it is important for this football team to realize there's not anything guaranteed. What happened last fall doesn't guarantee anything."

What happened last fall to the Hokies turned out to be one of the better stories in college football. Picked by the media who cover the ACC to finish sixth in the conference, Tech (10-3, 7-1 ACC) instead rolled to the title and advanced to the Bowl Championship Series. After losing 17-16 at home to N.C. State on Sept. 25, the Hokies reeled off eight straight victories before falling 16-13 to unbeaten Auburn in the Sugar Bowl. And now, as he heads into his 19th season as coach at his alma mater, Beamer hears his team touted as a national title contender.

"I'm not going to talk about one poll," he says. "If you hear me talk about one poll, somebody's flipped. You need to start out and play each ballgame and go from there."

The Hokies have the reigning ACC Coach of the Year, but they must replace the 2004 ACC Player of the Year, quarterback Bryan Randall. That may not be as difficult as some believe, even though Randall supplied unparalleled leadership and poise under pressure. Ready to step in at QB is Marcus Vick, who was out of school last fall dealing with personal and legal issues. The 6-0 junior bears an uncanny physical resemblance to his famous big brother, Atlanta Falcons quarterback Michael Vick, and he has many of the same qualities as a football player. Like Mike, Marcus Vick mixes extraordinary elusiveness with a strong throwing arm.

On a warm April afternoon, a crowd estimated at 34,000 flocked to Lane Stadium to watch Tech's spring game. The main attraction unquestionably

was Vick, who'd last played for the Hokies in the 2003 Insight Bowl. He didn't disappoint. Two days after that game, Beamer announced that Vick had beaten out Sean Glennon for the starting job.

"As a defensive coordinator, he scares you," Hokies defensive coordinator Bud Foster says of Vick, who passed for 475 yards and two TDs as a redshirt freshman in 2003. "You can do everything right on defense and he still makes a play and moves the chains, either with his arm or his legs."

Beamer may want to temper expectations in Blacksburg, but it's clear to see why they're so high. Offensive coordinator Bryan Stinespring has seven starters back, and Foster has six. Other veterans include junior kicker Brandon Pace, who connected on 21 of 27 field goals and 43 of 44 extra points in 2004. Tech placed four players on the All-ACC first team last year. Three are back: Pace, senior defensive end Darryl Tapp and senior cornerback Jimmy Williams. Tapp and Williams enter the season as All-America candidates. With 8.5 sacks, the relentless Tapp tied for fourth in the ACC. Williams led the conference with five interceptions.

The Hokies must replace two members of the All-ACC second team in offensive tackle Jon Dunn and defensive lineman Jim Davis, but they return a third choice, tight end Jeff King. The 6-5, 246-pound senior, who had four touchdown catches in 2004, spent his winter playing for Tech's basketball team. His football coaches are glad he did.

"I don't think there's any question the basketball experience has made Jeff a better football player," Stinespring says. "You look at the film and you see a marked difference in the way he runs and the way he gets downfield. He is much quicker."

Rarely has Beamer had a team with more talent at the skill positions. At tailback, the diminutive Mike Imoh confounds defenders with his now-you-see-him-now-you-don't quickness, and 6-1, 233-pound Cedric Humes is a bruiser with surprising speed. Now seniors, they combined for 1,325 yards and 11 rushing touchdowns last season. Imoh rushed for 243 yards against North Carolina, the best effort by an ACC player last fall. As if Imoh and Humes weren't enough, the Hokies also have touted freshmen Brandon Ore and George Bell, each of whom redshirted in 2004.

"People ask me if I'm nervous about having all

those guys on the same team," Stinespring says. "Of course not. The more, the better."

Tech's top four wideouts from 2004 are back—Eddie Royal, Josh Hyman, David Clowney and Josh Morgan—as is Justin Harper, who caught five passes for 84 yards and a TD. Hyman led the Hokies with 491 yards receiving and five touchdown catches, and Royal, who had a team-high 28 receptions, scored what proved to be the winning touchdown against Miami at the Orange Bowl. Royal, Harper and Morgan were true freshmen last year, so this receiving corps should only get better.

With so much talent at quarterback, running back and receiver, only poor play up front is likely to stop this offense. Not surprisingly, the line was Beamer's greatest concern coming out of spring practice.

"It kind of showed the need for some of these guys on the offensive line to have a great summer," Beamer says.

Last year's center, Will Montgomery, worked at guard during spring drills, but he could end up back at center in the fall if Stinespring isn't sold on potential replacements Danny McGrath and Ryan Shuman. Elsewhere on the line, senior Jimmy Martin is back at tackle, while senior Jason Murphy returns at guard. The starters lost included Dunn, who went in the seventh round of the NFL Draft to Cleveland.

A season ago, the Hokies ranked No. 2 nationally in scoring defense (12.8 ppg). If the newcomers who join the 6-3, 206-pound Williams in the starting secondary aren't overwhelmed by the pace of Division I-A football, Tech could be equally stingy in 2005. The Hokies' front seven might be as strong as any in the country. Tapp and junior Noland Burchette are back as the starting ends, but Tech's most talented player at that position might be Chris Ellis, a 6-4,

255-pound sophomore who had 7.5 tackles for loss in 2004.

"He's big, he's athletic and he can run," defensive line coach Charley Wiles says. "He was phenomenal this spring, and he's got a chance to be a special player here."

All-ACC candidate Jonathan Lewis returns at one tackle spot. Competing for the other starting job inside are sophomores Carlton Powell and Kory Robertson and senior Tim Sandidge. Lewis had 11 tackles for loss last season, including five sacks. Senior James Anderson is the old man of the linebacking corps. Joining him on the first team are sophomores Vince Hall and Xavier Adibi. What they have in common is outstanding speed, a trademark of Foster's defenses at Tech. An injury marred Adibi's 2004 season, but he showed flashes of why he'd been such a coveted recruit coming out of high school. In limited action, he recorded two sacks, intercepted a pass and forced a fumble.

Three-quarters of the Hokies' first-team secondary from 2004 moved on, including cornerback Eric Green and safety Vincent Fuller, both NFL draftees. Also gone is rover James Griffin. Battling to start alongside Williams at corner are sophomore Roland Minor and redshirt freshmen Brandon Flowers and Theodore Miller. Aaron Rouse and Cary Wade split time at rover during spring practice, and D.J. Parker, Kent Hicks and Justin Hamilton are in the mix at safety.

Questions remain about this Tech team. For all his ability, will Vick earn and keep the respect of his teammates and coaches as Randall did? He has grown up, but will he be able to stay out of trouble? Can the offensive line and secondary compete at the levels a top-10 program needs?

"We understand as a football team we have a ways to go," Beamer says. ☀

IN PROFILE ... JIMMY WILLIAMS

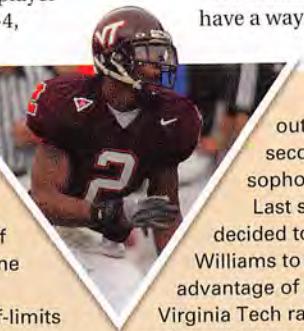
Williams' play at corner speaks volumes for Hokies—just not verbally

Last year, Jimmy Williams did most of his talking on the field, which was just fine by Virginia Tech coach Frank Beamer.

It was Beamer who made Williams off-limits to the media for almost eight months last year after Williams provided plenty of bulletin-board material prior to Virginia Tech's season opener with Southern Cal. Williams said he wanted Trojans star receiver Mike Williams to play (he didn't) so USC couldn't have any excuses when the Hokies upset the Trojans (they didn't).

Those were the last words Williams had for the media in 2004. His play on the field, however, spoke volumes, as the senior cornerback led the team in both interceptions (five) and pass breakups (14), getting named to the All-ACC first team in the process. One of those interceptions came in last year's Sugar Bowl, which the Hokies narrowly lost to Auburn, 16-13, when Williams picked off Tigers QB Jason Campbell.

Since arriving in Blacksburg, Va., in 2002, Williams has shifted positions, originally starting



out at free safety, where he was second on the team in tackles his sophomore year with 114.

Last spring, however, Beamer decided to switch the 6-3, 219-pound Williams to cornerback, hoping to take advantage of his size. The move paid off, as Virginia Tech ranked first in scoring defense and second in pass defense during its inaugural season in the ACC, with the Hokies also capturing the 2004 conference title.

Williams briefly flirted with the idea of skipping his final season, but decided to stay, partly because there was a strong influx of cornerbacks entering the 2005 NFL Draft. As it stands now, he is ranked as the top defensive back in the 2006 class, according to draft guru Mel Kiper.

And, shortly after Virginia Tech's spring game in April, Beamer finally decided to lift Williams' media ban. Williams told a group of reporters in Blacksburg that he has "grown up" since last year's incident and is ready to be a team leader. But he also admitted being silent to reporters was tough.

"I definitely missed you guys," he said.
—Matt McKenzie

2004 TEAM STATS

| TEAM STATISTICS | VT | OPP |
|----------------------|-----------|------------|
| SCORING | 400 | 167 |
| Points Per Game | 30.8 | 12.8 |
| FIRST DOWNS | 259 | 177 |
| Rushing | 127 | 77 |
| Passing | 108 | 84 |
| Penalty | 24 | 16 |
| RUSHING YARDAGE | 2317 | 1498 |
| Yards gained rushing | 2741 | 1865 |
| Yards lost rushing | 424 | 367 |
| Rushing Attempts | 552 | 462 |
| Average Per Rush | 4.2 | 3.2 |
| Average Per Game | 178.2 | 115.2 |
| TDS Rushing | 18 | 8 |
| PASSING YARDAGE | 2435 | 1986 |
| Att-Comp-Int | 319-179-9 | 332-180-19 |
| Average Per Pass | 7.6 | 6.0 |
| Average Per Catch | 13.6 | 11.0 |
| Average Per Game | 187.3 | 152.8 |
| TDS Passing | 24 | 8 |
| TOTAL OFFENSE | 4752 | 3484 |
| Total Plays | 871 | 794 |
| Average Per Play | 5.5 | 4.4 |
| Average Per Game | 365.5 | 268.0 |
| KICK RETURNS: #-YDS | 31-726 | 47-1022 |
| PUNT RETURNS: #-YDS | 47-439 | 32-301 |
| INT RETURNS: #-YDS | 19-365 | 9-155 |
| KICK RETURN AVERAGE | 23.4 | 21.7 |
| PUNT RETURN AVERAGE | 9.3 | 9.4 |
| INT RETURN AVERAGE | 19.2 | 17.2 |
| FUMBLES-LOST | 23-10 | 30-13 |
| PENALTIES-YARDS | 100-831 | 102-832 |
| Average Per Game | 63.9 | 64.0 |
| PUNTS-YARDS | 60-2339 | 83-3492 |
| Average Per Punt | 39.0 | 42.1 |
| Net punt average | 34.0 | 36.8 |
| TIME OF POSS./GAME | 30:57 | 29:03 |
| 3RD-DOWN CONV. | 65/171 | 55/186 |
| 3rd-Down Pct | 38% | 30% |
| 4TH-DOWN CONV. | 4/10 | 8/16 |
| 4th-Down Pct | 40% | 50% |
| SACKS BY-YARDS | 34-183 | 36-247 |
| MISC YARDS | 32 | 0 |
| TOUCHDOWNS SCORED | 48 | 18 |
| FIELD GOALS-ATTEMPTS | 21-27 | 14-22 |
| PAT-ATTEMPTS | 45-46 | 17-17 |
| ATTENDANCE | 455805 | 201036 |
| Games/Avg Per Game | 7/65115 | 4/50259 |
| Neutral Site Games | | 2/84507 |

| SCORE BY QTRS | 1st | 2nd | 3rd | 4th | OT | Total |
|---------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|-------|
| Virginia Tech | 72 | 146 | 84 | 98 | — | 400 |
| Opponents | 33 | 48 | 40 | 46 | — | 167 |

2004 INDIVIDUAL STATS OFFENSE

PASSING

| | | | | | | | |
|---------------|--------|-----------|-------------|------|------|-------|-------|
| Bryan Randall | GP | Effic. | Att-Cmp-Int | Pct. | Yds. | TD | Avg/G |
| 13 | 134.47 | 306-170-9 | 55.6 | 2264 | 21 | 174.2 | |

Sean Glennon

| | | | | | | | |
|--------------|--------|--------|-------------|------|------|------|-------|
| Sean Glennon | GP | Effic. | Att-Cmp-Int | Pct. | Yds. | TD | Avg/G |
| 4 | 237.35 | 11-8-0 | 72.7 | 137 | 2 | 34.2 | |

RUSHING

| | | | | | |
|---------------|----|-----|----------|-----|-------|
| Darryl Tapp | GP | ATT | Net Avg. | TD | Avg/G |
| Mike Imoh | 10 | 158 | 720 | 4.6 | 72.0 |
| Cedric Humes | 13 | 130 | 605 | 4.5 | 46.5 |
| Bryan Randall | 13 | 136 | 511 | 3.8 | 39.3 |

RECEIVING

| | | | | | | |
|-------------|----|-----|------|------|------|-------|
| Eddie Royal | GP | No. | Yds. | Avg. | TD | Avg/G |
| 12 | 28 | 470 | 16.8 | 3 | 39.2 | |
| Josh Hyman | 13 | 27 | 491 | 18.2 | 5 | 37.8 |
| Jeff King | 13 | 25 | 304 | 12.2 | 4 | 23.4 |

DEFENSE

| | | | | |
|--------------|----|------|------|-------|
| TACKLES | GP | Solo | Ast. | Total |
| Mikal Baaque | 13 | 30 | 41 | 71 |
| Vince Hall | 13 | 21 | 43 | 64 |
| Darryl Tapp | 13 | 26 | 34 | 60 |

SACKS

| | | | |
|----------------|----|-----|------|
| Darryl Tapp | GP | No. | Yds. |
| Mike Imoh | 13 | 8.5 | 54 |
| Jim Davis | 13 | 5.0 | 27 |
| Jonathan Lewis | 13 | 5.0 | 26 |

INTERCEPTIONS

| | | | | |
|----------------|-----|------|------|----|
| Jimmy Williams | No. | Yds. | Avg. | TD |
| 5 | 81 | 16.2 | 1 | |
| Vincent Fuller | 3 | 12 | 4.0 | 0 |
| Roland Minor | 2 | 63 | 31.5 | 1 |



TYRONE MOSS, TB



2004 Record: 9-3 overall, 5-3 ACC (beat Florida in the Peach Bowl, 27-10)

Stadium: Orange Bowl

Turf: Grass

Official athletic Web site: www.hurricanesports.com

Capacity: 72,319

PRESEASON RANK:

FIVE-YEAR WINS TREND

2

11 12 12 11 9

2000 2001 2002 2003 2004

Head coach: Larry Coker, 5th Year (44-6) Career Record: 44-6

Assistant coaches: Randy Shannon (def. coord.), Dan Werner (off. coord./QBs), Mario Cristobal (TEs), Vernon Hargreaves (LBs), Curtis Johnson (WRs), Art Kehoe (asst. head coach/off. line), Greg Mark (def. line), Don Soldinger (special teams/RBs), Tim Walton (def. backs)



2005 SCHEDULE

| DATE | OPPONENT | '04 RESULT |
|-------|----------------|------------|
| S. 5 | @FLORIDA STATE | 16-10 (OT) |
| S. 17 | @CLEMSON | 17-24 (OT) |
| S. 24 | Colorado | |
| O. 1 | South Florida | |
| O. 8 | Duke | |
| O. 15 | @TEMPLE | |
| O. 22 | Georgia Tech | 27-3 |
| O. 29 | North Carolina | 28-31 |
| N. 5 | @VIRGINIA TECH | 10-16 |
| N. 17 | @WAKE FOREST | 52-7 |
| N. 26 | Virginia | 31-21 |

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 14
Lettermen returning/lost: 54/24

OFFENSE

| | |
|----|--|
| QB | 3 Kyle Wright (6-5, 208, So.) |
| FB | 23 Quadrin Hill (6-2, 221, Sr.) |
| TB | 30 Tyrone Moss (5-10, 221, Jr.) |
| LT | 74 Eric Winston (6-7, 310, Sr.) |
| LG | 61 Tony Tella (6-5, 298, Sr.) |
| C | 78 Anthony Wollschlaeger (6-6, 291, Jr.) |
| RG | 68 Tyler McMeans (6-5, 337, Sr.) |
| RT | 64 Rashad Butler (6-5, 286, Sr.) |
| TE | 82 Greg Olsen (6-6, 247, So.) |
| SE | 9 Lance Leggett (6-4, 175, So.) |
| FL | 83 Sinorice Moss (5-8, 182, Sr.) |

DEFENSE

| | |
|-----|--|
| LE | 95 Bryan Pata (6-4, 267, Jr.) |
| DT | 98 Baraka Atkins (6-4, 263, Jr.) |
| DT | 92 Orien Harris (6-4, 300, Sr.) |
| RE | 90 Thomas Carroll (6-5, 230, Sr.) |
| SLB | 50 Rocky McIntosh (6-3, 237, Sr.) |
| MLB | 44 Leon Williams (6-4, 237, Sr.) |
| WLB | 51 Romeo Davis (6-2, 208, So.) |
| LCB | 22 Kelly Jennings (6-0, 177, Sr.) |
| RCB | 4 Devin Hester (5-11, 185, Jr.) |
| FS | 26 Anthony Reddick (6-0, 188, So.) |
| SS | 19 Brandon Meriweather (6-1, 184, Jr.) |

SPECIALISTS

| | |
|----|---------------------------------|
| PK | 13 Jon Peattie (6-3, 207, Jr.) |
| P | 39 Brian Monroe (6-2, 201, Jr.) |

RATING THE RECRUITS

1. Kenny Phillips, S
USA Today's Defensive Player of the Year.
2. Reggie Youngblood, OT
Parade All-American who'll likely start in 2006.
3. A.J. Trump, OL
A mix of exceptional speed (4.8 in 40) and size.
4. DajLeon Farr, TE
Will continue the Miami tradition of great TEs.
5. Courtney Harris, DE
Like most Miami D-linemen, he's fast (4.7 in 40).

There's pressure on Coker, 'Canes to show that 2004 season was an aberration

By the Hurricanes' lofty standards, last season wasn't one to brag about. Yes, they closed on a high note by crushing Florida 27-10 in the Peach Bowl, but the 'Canes (9-3, 5-3) failed to win at least 10 games for the first time since 1999. Anyway, they'd entered their inaugural season in the ACC expecting to wind up in the Bowl Championship Series, not the Peach.

Miami's uneven play in the regular season cost it dearly. After opening with six straight wins, the Hurricanes suffered inexplicable losses to North Carolina and Clemson on back-to-back weekends. Then, in the regular-season finale, with a chance to clinch a share of the ACC title, Miami lost to nemesis Virginia Tech—at the Orange Bowl, no less.

And so the 'Canes went into the offseason with an unusual sense of urgency. So what if Larry Coker's record in four seasons as Miami's coach is 44-6? Another season like the last one, and some members of the Miami fan base undoubtedly will be screaming for a coaching change.

Fortunately for Coker, his team has the talent to return this season to what it considers its rightful place: the BCS.

Because of early departures to the NFL after the 2003 season, and a string of injuries, Miami's two-deep chart included numerous freshmen and sophomores in 2004. Starters missed a total of 39 games because of injuries last year, and the seasoning that Miami's youngsters gained should pay dividends this fall.

Miami's defense wasn't bad in 2004, allowing only 17.6 points per game and averaging 3.2 sacks. It should be much better this year. All-ACC cornerback Antrel Rolle is gone to the NFL, but 11 defenders who started at least five games apiece in 2004 are back. As usual, the 'Canes will use their exceptional speed to swarm to the football.

"The defense has a lot of energy," Coker says. "We're a tougher football team now than we were a year ago. Guys are stepping up and making some plays."

A shoulder injury sidelined defensive tackle Orien Harris during spring drills, but the 6-4, 300-pound senior will be back in the fall to anchor a veteran line. The other returning starters are ends Bryan Pata and Thomas Carroll and tackle

Baraka Atkins, who has also played extensively at end. Kareem Brown, a 6-5, 301-pound junior, is a capable reserve at tackle. Carroll and Atkins each had 6.5 sacks in 2004.

If he can stay healthy, senior Leon Williams should be an All-America candidate at middle linebacker. On either side of him will be such talents as senior Rocky McIntosh (15 career starts), junior Tavares Gooden, sophomore Romeo Davis and redshirt freshman Willie Williams, who was widely considered the nation's No. 1 high school linebacker in 2004 but was derailed because of off-field troubles. McIntosh and Gooden ranked second and third among Hurricanes in tackles last year with 111 and 83, respectively.

How talented is Miami's secondary? So talented that junior Devin Hester, one of college football's most gifted athletes, is facing competition in his bid to start at cornerback alongside senior Kelly Jennings, who has made 28 career starts. Also in the mix is senior Marcus Maxey. Hester, who intercepted four passes last season, remains a work-in-progress.

Hester "needs to work on leverage, and he can't freelance," secondary coach Tim Walton says. "It does seem at times like plays go over his head, but he's coming along great with it. He understands it's a process."

Back at safety are senior Greg Threat, junior Brandon Meriweather and sophomore Anthony Reddick. Each started at least six games last season. Threat averaged 9.2 tackles, third most in the ACC. Also looking to make a name in the secondary is true freshman Kenny Phillips, *USA Today's* prep Defensive Player of the Year in 2004. The 6-2, 195-pound safety has "the body of Sean Taylor and the knowledge and speed of Ed Reed," Walton says.

Miami's defense, then, should be dominant. It's too early to say how good its offense might be. The Hurricanes led the ACC in scoring last season, averaging 32.1 points, but they lost four offensive players who made the All-ACC second team: quarterback Brock Berlin, tailback Frank Gore, wideout Roscoe Parrish and tackle Chris Myers. Gore and Parrish left with eligibility remaining, the latest in a long line of Miami stars to do so.

The Hurricanes open the season Sept. 5 at Florida State in what may well be a preview of the first ACC title game. The opener should mark 6-5 sophomore Kyle Wright's debut as Miami's starting quarterback. Wright, who threw nine passes



last season, edged Kirby Freeman during a spring battle to replace Berlin.

"We're going to be pretty good there [at quarterback]," Coker says. "I really like the talent there. They need a lot of work and they need to play, but we're going to be good at quarterback. I'm not concerned about the position from talent; I'm only [concerned] because of the lack of experience."



MARQUES HAGANS, QB

2005 SCHEDULE

| DATE | OPPONENT | '04 RESULT |
|-------|------------------|------------|
| S. 3 | Western Michigan | |
| S. 17 | @SYRACUSE | 31-10 |
| S. 24 | Duke | 37-16 |
| O. 1 | @MARYLAND | 16-0 |
| O. 8 | @BOSTON COLLEGE | |
| O. 15 | Florida State | 3-36 |
| O. 22 | @NORTH CAROLINA | 56-24 |
| N. 5 | Temple | 44-14 |
| N. 12 | Georgia Tech | 30-10 |
| N. 19 | Virginia Tech | 10-24 |
| N. 26 | @MIAMI (FL) | 21-31 |

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 14
Lettermen returning/lost: 34/23

OFFENSE

| | |
|----|--|
| QB | 18 Marques Hagans (5-10, 211, Sr.) |
| FB | 38 Jason Snelling (5-11, 245, Jr.) |
| TB | 33 Wali Lundy (5-10, 214, Sr.) |
| LT | 66 D'Brickashaw Ferguson (6-5, 295, Sr.) |
| LG | 62 Brian Barthelmes (6-6, 288, Sr.) |
| C | 77 Ian-Yates Cunningham (6-3, 296, So.) |
| RG | 78 Marshal Ausberry (6-5, 324, So.) |
| RT | 69 Brad Butler (6-8, 296, Sr.) |
| TE | 86 Tom Santi (6-5, 225, So.) |
| WR | 81 Deyon Williams (6-3, 188, Jr.) |
| WR | 83 Ottawa Anderson (6-0, 186, Sr.) |

DEFENSE

| | |
|----|------------------------------------|
| DE | 96 Brennan Schmidt (6-3, 269, Sr.) |
| NT | 92 Keenan Carter (6-1, 324, So.) |
| DE | 99 Chris Johnson (6-3, 275, So.) |
| LB | 51 Clint Sintim (6-3, 250, r-Fr.) |
| LB | 57 Jermaine Dias (6-1, 231, So.) |
| LB | 34 Ahmad Brooks (6-4, 249, Jr.) |
| LB | 44 Kai Parham (6-3, 247, Jr.) |
| CB | 23 Tony Franklin (5-10, 185, Jr.) |
| CB | 3 Marcus Hamilton (5-11, 191, Jr.) |
| FS | 42 Lance Evans (6-4, 198, Jr.) |
| SS | 30 Nate Lyles (6-0, 195, So.) |

SPECIALISTS

| | |
|----|----------------------------------|
| PK | 6 Connor Hughes (5-10, 172, Sr.) |
| P | 9 Chris Gould (6-1, 190, So.) |

RATING THE RECRUITS

- Eugene Monroe, OL
Will make a strong push to start at OG this year.
- Mike Brown, CB
Four-year starter at St. Peter's Prep in New Jersey.
- Mikell Simpson, TB
Gifted runner who's also dangerous as a receiver.
- Kevin Ogletree, WR
Had 19 touchdown catches as a senior last year.
- Rashawn Jackson, RB/LB
Another N.J. product of powerful St. Peter's Prep.

VIRGINIA CAVALIERS



CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA.

2004 Record: 8-4 overall, 5-3 ACC (lost to Fresno State in the MPC Computers Bowl, 37-34)

Stadium: Scott Stadium

Turf: Grass

Official athletic Web site: www.virginiastars.com

Capacity: 61,500

PRESEASON RANK:

FIVE-YEAR WINS TREND

3

6 5 9 8 8

2000 2001 2002 2003 2004

Head coach: Al Groh, 5th Year (30-21) Career Record: 56-61

Assistant coaches: Danny Rocco (assoc. head coach/OLBs), Al Golden (def. coord./def. backs), Ron Prince (off. coord./off. line), Levern Belin (def. line), Mark D'Onofrio (ILBs/special teams), John Garrett (WRs), Mike Groh (QBs/recruiting coord.), Anthony Poindexter (RBs), Bob Price (TEs)



With the best of its offense now in the NFL, Cavs will have hard time repeating recent success

By the time the NFL Draft ended in April, seven players from Virginia had been selected, a school record. If the Cavaliers (8-4, 5-3 ACC) couldn't win the ACC title with all those players, it seems reasonable to ask how can they hope to do so without them.

Among others, Virginia lost three players who made the All-ACC first team—tailback Alvin Pearman, tight end Heath Miller and offensive guard Elton Brown. Also gone are All-ACC second-team selections Zac Yarbrough (center), Darryl Blackstock (linebacker) and defensive end Chris Carty, who made the all-conference second team in 2002 and 2003. Brown and Miller were All-Americans in 2004, and Carty might have earned similar accolades had he not suffered a season-ending knee injury in September.

"There are good players and good leaders who leave," fifth-year coach Al Groh says, "but there's always another group that's ready to come up and replace them, and I think that we have a number of those guys in those circumstances."

Seven starters are back on offense, and that doesn't include wideout Ottawa Anderson. A starter in 2003, Anderson was academically ineligible last season, but he's expected back this fall. On defense, coordinator Al Golden returns six starters, led by All-America linebacker Ahmad Brooks.

Also back are kicker Connor Hughes, a Lou Groza Award candidate, and punter Chris Gould, who won the starting job as a true freshman last year.

Virginia's roster, obviously, was well-stocked with all-star candidates in 2004. The Cavaliers placed five players on the All-ACC first team. None of them, however, lined up at wide receiver or defensive back, and those positions proved to be the Cavaliers' weak points, especially late in the season. They dropped three of the final four games, including an overtime loss to Fresno State in the MPC Computers Bowl. That marked the first time under Groh (30-21 at his alma mater) that UVa. lost its final game of a season.

The Cavaliers' quarterback in 2002 and '03 was Matt Schaub, and he ran Groh's version of the West Coast offense brilliantly. Marques Hagans, who spent more time at wideout and punt returner than QB as a freshman and sophomore, took over for Schaub last year. The 5-10 Hagans, a superior scrambler, completed 62.8 percent of his

attempts and threw nine touchdown passes last season. But he looked flustered at times too.

"I think I feel a lot more confident [this year]," says Hagans, who ranked second in the ACC in passing efficiency. "It was definitely a lot more challenging than I thought it would be."

A season ago, UVa. led the ACC in total offense, in large part because of its dominant rushing attack. The Cavaliers averaged 242.8 yards on the ground, by far the most of any team in the ACC. The return of senior tailback Wali Lundy and junior fullback Jason Snelling, plus a line that includes tackles D'Brickashaw Ferguson and Brad Butler and guard Brian Barthelmes—all three are seniors—means Virginia will again run the ball with authority.

The Cavaliers are likely to struggle against the ACC's elite, however, unless they develop a reliable passing attack.

Hagans' targets include juniors Fontel Mines, Deyon Williams and Ron Morton, sophomore Bud Davis and Anderson, who's a senior. All have shown flashes of talent, but none has consistently looked like an all-star candidate.

Statistically, Virginia's defense fared well in 2004. The Cavaliers ranked fourth among ACC teams in scoring defense. But breakdowns in pass coverage hurt UVa. against the better teams on its schedule. To shore up his secondary, Groh shuffled the assignments of several assistants after last season.

In addition to serving as coordinator, Golden now tutors the defensive backs. He has veteran corners in junior returning starters Marcus Hamilton and Tony Franklin and promising, if unseasoned, safeties in Nate Lyles, Lance Evans and Jamaal Jackson. Philip Brown, inconsistent as a true freshman last year, may contend for a starting spot at cornerback. Hamilton intercepted four passes last season.

The big losses in Virginia's 3-4 defense were Andrew Hoffman, a three-year starter at nose tackle, and outside linebackers Blackstock (27 career sacks) and Dennis Haley. The probable starters on either side of inside 'backers Brooks and Kai Parham are sophomore Jermaine Dias and redshirt freshman Clint Sintim.

Brooks, who's recovering from offseason knee surgery, may be the nation's premier linebacker.

GEORGIA TECH

YELLOW JACKETS



ATLANTA

2004 Record: 7-5 overall, 4-4 ACC (beat Syracuse in the Champs Sports Bowl, 51-14)

Stadium:

Bobby Dodd Stadium

Turf: Grass

Capacity: 55,000

Official athletic Web site: www.ramblinwreck.com



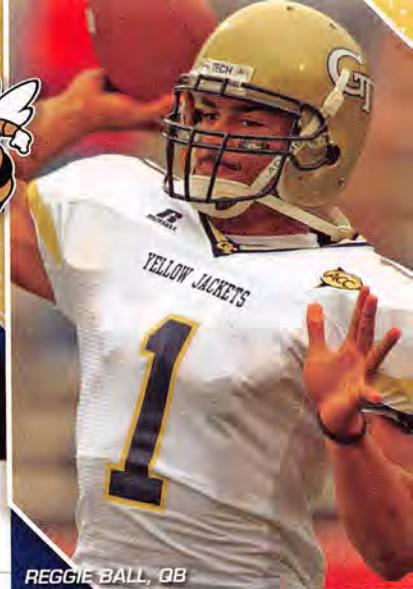
FIVE-YEAR WINS TREND



PRESEASON RANK:
4

Head coach: Chan Gailey, 4th Year (21-17) Career Record: 45-28

Assistant coaches: Joe D'Alessandris (off. line), Buddy Geis (asst. head coach/WRs), Brian Jean-Mary (LBS), Curtis Modkins (RBs), Patrick Nix (off. coord./QBs), Tommie Robinson (TEs), Giff Smith (def. line), Jon Tenuta (def. coord./def. backs), David Wilson (special teams/recruiting coord.)



REGGIE BALL, QB

If their quarterback can find consistency, Yellow Jackets could be having a Ball

The 2004 season couldn't have ended on a much more impressive note for the Yellow Jackets, who crushed Syracuse 51-14 in the Champs Sports Bowl. Georgia Tech had been mediocre during the regular season—4-4 in the ACC and 6-5 overall—but on that December night it was spectacular.

If the Jackets played like that all the time, of course, there wouldn't be so much grumbling about fourth-year coach Chan Gailey (21-17). But they've never won more than seven games in a season under Gailey. And although they figure to extend their school-record streak of postseason appearances to nine, a major breakthrough isn't likely to come this year. Check out Tech's schedule, which includes road games against Auburn, Virginia Tech, Miami and Virginia, as well as the regular-season finale against Georgia.

Five Jackets earned All-ACC recognition in 2004. Four of are back: wideout Calvin Johnson, a first-team pick, and second-team selections Travis Bell (kicker), Eric Henderson (defensive end) and Gerris Wilkinson (linebacker). Henderson was a first-team choice in 2003.

In Jon Tenuta, Georgia Tech has one of the nation's better defensive coordinators, and he has a stellar returning cast. The Jackets ranked fifth among ACC teams in scoring defense (18.9 ppg) in 2004, and they should be better this season. Of last year's starting defenders, only All-ACC safety James Butler and defensive end Travis Parker, an academic casualty, are gone. Mansfield Wrotto, a regular at tackle in 2004, has been moved to offensive guard in an attempt to strengthen that line. Unfortunately for Tenuta, Wrotto's replacement at tackle, Daryl Richard, tore his right ACL during spring practice and will miss the season.

Henderson and Parker form perhaps the ACC's best set of ends, and the 6-4, 230-pound Wilkinson ranked second among tacklers in the conference with 9.9 per game. One of his running mates at linebacker last year, Chris Reis, recorded 10 sacks, the most of any returning ACC player. Reis is now at safety, his original position with the Yellow Jackets. There's tremendous experience in the secondary, where strong safety Dawan Landry has started 25 games and

cornerbacks Dennis Davis, Reuben Houston and Kenny Scott have all worked with the first team. Davis started the first three games last year before suffering a season-ending shoulder injury.

Special teams should be another strength. Not only is Bell (15-of-17 on field goals) back, but so is punter Ben Arndt, who had 20 punts downed inside the opponents' 20-yard line.

On offense, the most decorated of the five returning starters is Johnson. Blessed with size (6-4, 225), speed and exceptional hands, he caught 48 passes for 837 yards and seven touchdowns as a true freshman to earn ACC Rookie-of-the-Year honors. For all of Johnson's considerable talent, however, he can't carry the Jackets alone.

Gailey desperately needs more consistency from his mercurial quarterback, junior Reggie Ball. The ACC Rookie of the Year in 2003, Ball threw more interceptions (18) than touchdown passes (16) in '04, and his decision-making was atrocious at times. Still, when he's on his game, Ball is capable of producing big plays. In two seasons, he's passed for 4,143 yards. In ACC history, only three quarterbacks have thrown for more by the end of their sophomore seasons.

Gailey's biggest concern is rebuilding an offensive line that lost three starters. Also gone is tight end Darius Williams, whose likely replacement, junior Michael Matthews, caught one pass last season. Tech's returning starters up front are sophomore guard Matt Rhodes and senior tackle Brad Honeycutt, a converted guard. Andrew Gardner, a 6-6, 280-pound redshirt freshman, is the leading candidate to take over at left tackle. Wrotto, a 6-3, 310-pound junior, will work at right guard.

If the line develops, the Jackets could have a powerful running attack. Returning is senior tailback P.J. Daniels, the school's fifth all-time leading rusher with 2,416 yards. Daniels, hobbled by injuries last year, was first-team All-ACC in 2003. In Daniels' absence last season, Chris Woods and Rashawn Grant impressed at times, and both are back. Tech's top fullbacks are Mike Cox and Ajenavi Ezieme, who has also played tailback. ☀

2005 SCHEDULE

| DATE | OPPONENT | '04 RESULT |
|-------|----------------------|------------|
| S. 3 | @ AUBURN | |
| S. 10 | North Carolina | 13-34 |
| S. 17 | Connecticut | 30-10 |
| S. 24 | @ VIRGINIA TECH | 20-34 |
| O. 6 | North Carolina State | 24-14 |
| O. 15 | @ DUKE | 24-7 |
| O. 22 | @ MIAMI (FL) | 3-27 |
| O. 29 | Clemson | 28-24 |
| N. 5 | Wake Forest | |
| N. 12 | @ VIRGINIA | 10-30 |
| N. 26 | Georgia | 13-19 |

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 16
Lettermen returning/lost: 43/19

OFFENSE

| | | |
|----|----|------------------------------------|
| QB | 1 | Reggie Ball (5-11, 195, Jr.) |
| FB | 40 | Mike Cox (6-1, 248, So.) |
| TB | 45 | P.J. Daniels (5-10, 210, r-Sr.) |
| LT | 64 | Andrew Gardner (6-6, 280, r-Fr.) |
| LG | 61 | Matt Rhodes (6-3, 280, r-So.) |
| C | 73 | Nate McManus (6-3, 290, So.) |
| RG | 68 | Mansfield Wrotto (6-3, 310, Jr.) |
| RT | 72 | Brad Honeycutt (6-4, 310, r-Sr.) |
| TE | 48 | Michael Matthews (6-4, 270, r-Jr.) |
| WR | 21 | Calvin Johnson (6-4, 225, So.) |
| WR | 8 | Damarius Bilbo (6-3, 225, r-Sr.) |

DEFENSE

| | | |
|-----|----|------------------------------------|
| DE | 56 | Eric Henderson (6-3, 265, r-Sr.) |
| DT | 96 | Joe Anoai (6-3, 270, Jr.) |
| DT | 55 | David Brown (6-3, 260, r-Fr.) |
| DE | 42 | Adamann Oliver (6-4, 260, r-So.) |
| SLB | 35 | KaMichael Hall (6-0, 225, Jr.) |
| MLB | 49 | Gerris Wilkinson (6-4, 230, r-Sr.) |
| WLB | 41 | Philip Wheeler (6-2, 221, r-So.) |
| CB | 9 | Reuben Houston (6-0, 190, r-Sr.) |
| CB | 25 | Dennis Davis (6-0, 185, r-Sr.) |
| FS | 20 | Dawan Landry (6-2, 215, r-Sr.) |
| SS | 18 | Chris Reis (6-1, 215, Sr.) |

SPECIALISTS

| | | |
|----|----|-------------------------------|
| PK | 87 | Travis Bell (6-0, 210, r-So.) |
| P | 86 | Ben Arndt (6-0, 180, r-Sr.) |

RATING THE RECRUITS

| | |
|-----|---|
| 1. | Michael Johnson, TE/DE |
| 2. | Six-foot-7 athlete had 42 catches, 14 sacks in '04. |
| 3. | Jonathan Garner, QB |
| 4. | Lefty was ranked among nation's top 20 QBs. |
| 5. | Anthony Barnes, DB |
| 6. | At 6-4, 200 pounds, a physical presence at safety. |
| 7. | Jake Blackwood, S |
| 8. | Father (Glenn) and uncle (Lyle) played in the NFL. |
| 9. | Tony Clark, CB |
| 10. | Speedster intercepted four passes as senior in '04. |

NORTH CAROLINA

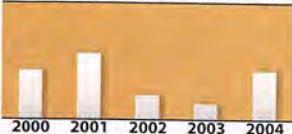
TAR HEELS



2004 Record: 6-6 overall, 5-3 ACC
(lost to Boston College in the Continental Tire Bowl, 37-24)
Official athletic Web site: www.tarheelblue.com

FIVE-YEAR WINS TREND

6 8 3 2 6



2005 SCHEDULE

| DATE | OPPONENT | '04 RESULT |
|-------|----------------|------------|
| S. 10 | @GEORGIA TECH | 34-13 |
| S. 17 | Wisconsin | |
| S. 24 | @NC STATE | 30-24 |
| O. 1 | Utah | 16-46 |
| O. 8 | @LOUISVILLE | 0-34 |
| O. 22 | Virginia | 24-56 |
| O. 29 | @MIAMI (FL) | 31-28 |
| N. 5 | Boston College | |
| N. 12 | Maryland | |
| N. 19 | Duke | 40-17 |
| N. 26 | @VIRGINIA TECH | 24-27 |

Head coach: John Bunting,

5th Year (19-30)

Career Record: 57-44-2

Stadium: Kenan Stadium

Turf: Grass

Capacity: 60,000

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 16
Lettermen returning/lost: 53/23

OFFENSE

| | |
|----|-------------------------------------|
| QB | 7 Matt Baker (6-2, 209, Sr.) |
| FB | 40 Rikki Cook (6-0, 260, Jr.) |
| TB | 25 Ronnie McGill (5-11, 210, Jr.) |
| LT | 66 Brian Chacos (6-4, 297, Sr.) |
| LG | 77 Charlston Gray (6-3, 299, So.) |
| C | 63 Ben Lemming (6-5, 280, So.) |
| RG | 78 Kyle Ralph (6-4, 295, Sr.) |
| RT | 75 Skip Seagraves (6-5, 290, Sr.) |
| TE | 86 Jon Hamlett (6-5, 247, Jr.) |
| WR | 1 Derrele Mitchell (6-3, 212, Sr.) |
| WR | 5 Jarwarski Pollock (5-8, 170, Sr.) |

DEFENSE

| | |
|-----|-------------------------------------|
| DE | 42 Brian Rackley (6-5, 245, Jr.) |
| DT | 95 Chase Page (6-5, 280, Sr.) |
| DT | 74 Kyndraus Guy (6-2, 269, So.) |
| DE | 80 Tommy Davis (6-2, 257, Sr.) |
| SLB | 52 Jeff Longhany (6-3, 251, Sr.) |
| MLB | 53 Doug Justice (6-2, 246, Sr.) |
| WLB | 8 Tommy Richardson (6-1, 223, Sr.) |
| DB | 16 Jacoby Watkins (6-0, 170, Jr.) |
| DB | 13 Cedrick Holt (5-11, 190, Sr.) |
| FS | 27 Karen Taylor (6-0, 195, Jr.) |
| SS | 31 Trimane Goddard (5-11, 185, So.) |

SPECIALISTS

| | |
|----|------------------------------------|
| PK | 10 Connor Barth (6-1, 175, So.) |
| P | 45 David Woolridge (6-1, 194, Jr.) |

This time last year, John Bunting's chances of returning as the Tar Heels' coach in 2005 seemed poor at best. His prospects still looked bleak the first week of October, in fact, after a one-sided loss to Florida State dropped North Carolina to 2-3. But a controversial victory over archrival N.C. State turned the Heels' season around. Carolina (6-6, 5-3) won four of its final six regular-season games—a stretch highlighted by a shocking upset of No. 4 Miami—to save Bunting's job.

Bunting was rewarded with a two-year contract extension soon after Carolina beat Duke in the regular-season finale. About two weeks later, however, the Tar Heels fell 37-24 to Boston College in the Continental Tire Bowl, and they figure to struggle this season unless their much-maligned defense improves significantly. No longer is record-setting quarterback Darian Durant around to give Carolina a decent shot at winning shootouts.

A season ago, UNC ranked last among ACC teams in total defense and scoring defense (31.8 ppg). With 10 starters back on defense, there's reason to believe the Tar Heels won't be so generous this year. The returnees include tackle Chase Page, a 6-5, 280-pound senior who started 12 games in 2003 but redshirted last season after tearing a tendon in his left hand.

Other players to watch include 6-6, 297-pound sophomore tackle Khalif Mitchell (an end last season), sophomore tackle Kyndraus Guy, junior safety Karen Taylor, senior linebacker Doug Justice and junior linebacker Larry Edwards, who had a terrific spring practice.

With sophomore kicker Connor Barth and junior punter David Woolridge back, North Carolina's kicking game should be solid.

More questions surround an offense that returns only five starters. Taking over at quarterback is senior Matt Baker, who's completed just 44 passes for 623 yards in his career. The featured tailback will be Ronnie McGill, who battled a nagging ankle injury last season. The returning starters are wide receivers Derrele Mitchell and Jarwarski Pollock, tackle Brian Chacos and guards Kyle Ralph and Charlston Gray.

DUKE

BLUE DEVILS



2004 Record: 2-9 overall, 1-7 ACC
Official athletic Web site: www.goduke.com

FIVE-YEAR WINS TREND

0 0 2 4 2



2005 SCHEDULE

| DATE | OPPONENT | '04 RESULT |
|-------|-------------------|------------|
| S. 3 | @EAST CAROLINA | |
| S. 10 | Virginia Tech | 17-41 |
| S. 17 | Virginia Military | |
| S. 24 | @VIRGINIA | 16-37 |
| O. 1 | Navy | 12-27 |
| O. 8 | @MIAMI (FL) | 7-24 |
| O. 15 | Georgia Tech | 7-29 |
| O. 22 | Florida State | 7-29 |
| O. 29 | Wake Forest | 22-24 |
| N. 5 | @CLEMSON | 16-13 |
| N. 19 | @NORTH CAROLINA | 17-40 |

Head coach: Ted Roof,

3rd Year (4-12)

Career Record: 4-12

Stadium: Wallace Wade Stadium

Turf: Grass

Capacity: 33,941

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 14
Lettermen returning/lost: 44/11

OFFENSE

| | |
|----|--------------------------------------|
| QB | 7 Mike Schneider (6-2, 215, Jr.) |
| FB | 22 Malcolm Ruff (6-0, 250, Sr.) |
| TB | 33 Cedric Dargan (6-0, 200, Sr.) |
| LT | 90 Demetrius Warrick (6-7, 300, Sr.) |
| LG | 67 Bob Berion (6-3, 285, Jr.) |
| C | 68 Matt Rumsey (6-4, 275, So.) |
| RG | 66 Tyler Krieg (6-4, 300, Jr.) |
| RT | 75 Izzy Bauta (6-4, 270, So.) |
| TE | 83 Ben Patrick (6-4, 260, Jr.) |
| WR | 81 Jomar Wright (6-1, 180, So.) |
| WR | 28 Ronnie Elliott (5-10, 185, Sr.) |

DEFENSE

| | |
|----|--------------------------------------|
| DE | 41 Justin Kitchen (6-4, 235, Sr.) |
| DT | 77 Vince Oghobaase (6-6, 335, Fr.) |
| DT | 51 Casey Camero (6-5, 265, Jr.) |
| DE | 52 Eli Nichols (6-4, 250, Jr.) |
| LB | 30 Brendan Dewan (6-1, 205, Sr.) |
| LB | 58 Codie Lowe (6-2, 230, Jr.) |
| LB | 84 Patrick Bailey (6-4, 240, So.) |
| CB | 10 Deonto McCormick (5-10, 180, Jr.) |
| CB | 11 John Talley (5-11, 180, Jr.) |
| FS | 23 Brian Greene (6-1, 190, Sr.) |
| SS | 27 Chris Davis (6-0, 175, So.) |

SPECIALISTS

| | |
|----|------------------------------------|
| PK | 14 Alex Feinberg (6-0, 200, r-So.) |
| P | 49 Chris Sprague (6-1, 180, Sr.) |

The Blue Devils (2-9, 1-7) played hard in their first full season under coach Ted Roof but, other than a late-season upset of Clemson, had little to show for their effort.

Don't look for a significantly improved record in 2005. Duke's non-conference schedule is forgiving, but Roof's team isn't likely to get close to the top half of the ACC's Coastal Division.

On offense, six starters return, including junior quarterback Mike Schneider and the team's top three pass receivers from 2004: tight ends Ben Patrick and Andy Roland and wideout Ronnie Elliott. Also back is Curt Dukes, whose primary position is QB but who also played fullback, tight end and receiver last season. Duke will find ways to get Dukes the ball, but the quarterback's job almost certainly will belong to Schneider, who completed nearly 60 percent of his passes for 1,527 yards last year.

Overseeing the attack is a new coordinator, Bill O'Brien, who came to Duke from Maryland. Cedric Dargan is back at tailback, and Malcolm Ruff, a starting linebacker in 2004, has been moved to fullback, where he played in 2002. Still, the Devils will have trouble running or passing if their inexperienced line doesn't develop quickly. Junior guard Tyler Krieg is the only starter back up front.

"I think that is the biggest area of concern for our football team," Roof says.

To bolster the line, 6-7, 300-pound Demetrius Warrick has been moved from the defensive line, his home for three seasons, to offensive tackle.

Only one Blue Devil earned All-ACC honors in 2004: cornerback John Talley, a second-team selection. Talley, who intercepted four passes, is one of six returning starters on Duke's defense. If end Phillip Alexander and tackle Brian Sallee are healthy, the line could be a strength. Alexander, who had 6.5 sacks in 2003, missed the final nine games last season with a leg injury. Sallee suffered a season-ending leg injury in the 2004 opener against Navy.

Adding depth and talent up front is 6-6, 335-pound true freshman Vince Oghobaase, the highest-rated recruit to enter Duke's program in years. The team's top returning tackler is senior linebacker Brendan Dewan.

BIG EAST CONFERENCE PREDICTED ORDER OF FINISH:



BIG EAST
CONFERENCE

Games to watch:

- >> **Louisville at West Virginia**, Oct. 15
Cards get their first major Big East road test in Morgantown.
- >> **Pittsburgh at Louisville**, Nov. 3
Thursday night ESPN game that could decide regular-season title.
- >> **Pittsburgh at West Virginia**, Nov. 24
If Pitt-Louisville doesn't decide things Nov. 3, this one will.

official conference Web site:
www.bigeast.org

Right now, Big East football not exactly living large

By Pete Williams
Street & Smith's Correspondent

It might take a while for the new-look Big East to establish an identity. There are four new teams and two incumbents have new head coaches.

Big East? With just eight schools in the new super-conference era and a BCS berth some argue it does not deserve, there's nothing "big" about the conference. With Cincinnati and Louisville joining the fold, along with Connecticut and South Florida, the conference is far less Eastern than it was two years ago with Boston College, Miami, Temple and Virginia Tech.

None of the newcomers figures to make anyone forget about Miami and Virginia Tech, which took their perennial title battle to the ACC. Still, the Big East arguably could be tougher from top to bottom, now that the hapless Owls have been booted for failing to field a competitive program.

Louisville has emerged as the surprise upstart of the new millennium. Connecticut has thrived in recent years, at least with now-graduated quarterback Dan Orlovsky leading the way. And South Florida has quietly emerged as a legit title threat. Not bad for a program that did not exist until 1997.

The Cardinals, who could have finished undefeated were it not for a late-game rally by Miami at midseason, may be this season's Virginia Tech, winning a championship in a more prestigious league. To do so, coach Bobby Petrino's troops will have to vanquish far superior competition than their old Conference USA opponents.

Dave Wannstedt might be a recruiting class or two away from having a better team at Pittsburgh

than he did during his last season at the helm of the Miami Dolphins. If he can blend his running-and-defense philosophies with a talented passing corps, the Panthers could again be at the top of the heap this season.

West Virginia has become Running Back U. under Rich Rodriguez, a reputation that will continue even after the departure of All-Big East second-team choice Kay-Jay Harris. The Mountaineers were considered underachievers for winning just eight games in each of the last two seasons, but that would be a solid accomplishment in a semi-rebuilding year.

Connecticut has a new stadium in its second full year in the Big East. Coach Randy Edsall will be hard-pressed to extend the school's remarkable run now that Orlovsky has departed to the NFL. The Huskies likely will reinvent themselves as more of a running team and should remain a formidable opponent.

After 30 years as a college and NFL assistant, Greg Robinson gets his first shot at head coaching in Syracuse. A lackluster 6-6 season, including a loss to Temple, cost Paul Pasqualoni his job. Robinson's West Coast offense will be stark contrast to the 14-year Pasqualoni era.

Because of the seismic shifts in conference realignment, South Florida has soared through the I-A ranks and can compete for a BCS bid in just its ninth season of fielding a team. Bulls officials and coach Jim Leavitt have waited for the day they could compete at the highest level. This season will show whether or not USF has grown too fast.

Cincinnati thrived last season, but must undergo a huge rebuilding process that could be painful against tougher competition.

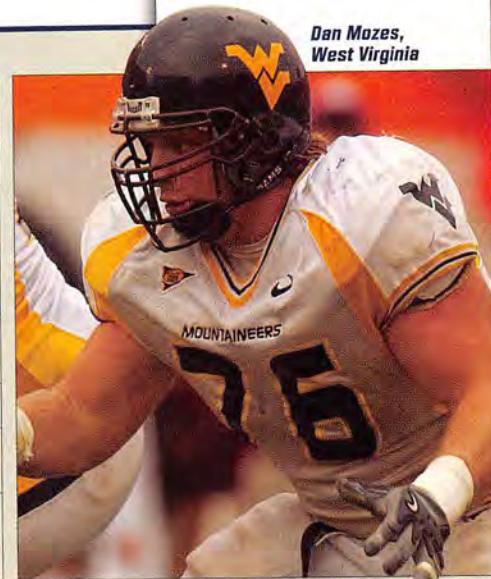
**Street & Smith's
ALL-CONFERENCE**

Offense

| | |
|----|------------------------------------|
| QB | Tyler Palko, Sr., Pittsburgh |
| RB | Cornell Brockington, Jr., UConn |
| RB | Andre Hall, Sr., South Florida |
| DL | Dan Mozes, Jr., West Virginia |
| DL | Travis Lefew, Sr., Louisville |
| DL | Jason Spitz, Sr., Louisville |
| DL | Jeremy Sheffey, Jr., West Virginia |
| DL | John Glass, Sr., Rutgers |
| WR | Tres Mose, Sr., Rutgers |
| WR | Greg Lee, Jr., Pittsburgh |
| TE | Clark Harris, Sr., Rutgers |
| PK | Josh Cummings, Sr., Pittsburgh |

Defense

| | |
|----|-------------------------------------|
| DL | James Wyche, Sr., Syracuse |
| DL | Adam Roberts, Sr., Cincinnati |
| DL | Elvis Dumervil, Sr., Louisville |
| DL | Ryan Neill, Sr., Rutgers |
| LB | H.B. Blades, Jr., Pittsburgh |
| LB | Stephen Nicholas, Jr., S. Florida |
| LB | Brandon Johnson, Sr., Louisville |
| DB | Jahmille Addae, Sr., West Virginia |
| DB | Bernard "Josh" Lay, Sr., Pittsburgh |
| DB | Anthony Smith, Sr., Syracuse |
| DB | Mike Larella, Sr., West Virginia |
| P | Adam Brasile, Jr., Pittsburgh |



Dan Mozes,
West Virginia

Rating the players

| | |
|--------------------------|--|
| Fastest receiver | Brandon Young, Connecticut |
| Best hands | Tres Mose, WR, Rutgers |
| Best passing QB | Ryan Hart, Rutgers |
| Best running QB | Joe Fields, Syracuse |
| Most elusive RB | Andre Hall, South Florida |
| Best instincts | Dan Mozes, OG, West Virginia |
| Best athlete | Joshua Tinch, WR, Louisville |
| Best under pressure | Tyler Palko, QB, Pittsburgh |
| Top NFL prospect | H.B. Blades, LB, Pittsburgh |
| Top impact freshman | Jason Gwaltney, RB, West Virginia |
| Hardest hitter | H.B. Blades, LB, Pittsburgh |
| Biggest underachiever(s) | Joe Fields/Perry Patterson, Syracuse QBs |

Rating the coaches

| | |
|-------------------|-------------------------------|
| Best strategist | Rich Rodriguez, West Virginia |
| Best recruiter | Jim Leavitt, South Florida |
| Coach on the spot | Brian Schiano, Rutgers |

Don't be surprised if ...

The Big East sends another eight-win team to the BCS. With so much parity—or at least no team that stands above the rest—there might be no team to break out the way Louisville did in Conference USA last season.

One man's opinion

"If Pitt can establish a running game, they'll be the team to beat. Most of the conference seems to have question marks with the passing game, but that won't be a problem with the guys Dave Wannstedt inherits. Plus, you know he'll find a way to run the ball. He'll make a good defense better."

—A Big East assistant coach



BRIAN BROHM, QB



LOUISVILLE CARDINALS

2004 Record: 11-1 overall, 8-0 Conference USA (beat Boise State in the Liberty Bowl, 44-40)

Stadium: Papa John's Cardinal Stadium

Turf: Artificial

Capacity: 42,000

Official athletic Web site: www.uoflSports.com

PRESEASON RANK:

FIVE-YEAR WINS TREND

19 11 7 9 11
2000 2001 2002 2003 2004Head coach: **Bobby Petrino**, 3rd Year (20-5) Career Record: 20-5Assistant coaches: **Greg Nord** (asst. head coach/TEs/RBs), **Mike Cassity** (def. coord./safeties), **Paul Petrino** (off. coord./WRs), **Jeff Brohm** (QBs), **Reggie Johnson** (ILBs), **Tony Levine** (OLBs/special teams), **Mike Summers** (off. line), **Joe Whitt Jr.** (CBs/recruiting coord.), **Kevin Wolthausen** (def. line)

2005 SCHEDULE

| DATE | OPPONENT | '04 RESULT |
|-------|------------------|------------|
| S. 3 | @KENTUCKY | 28-0 |
| S. 17 | Oregon State | |
| S. 24 | @SOUTH FLORIDA | 41-9 |
| O. 1 | Florida Atlantic | |
| O. 8 | North Carolina | 34-0 |
| O. 15 | @WEST VIRGINIA | |
| O. 22 | @CINCINNATI | 70-7 |
| N. 3 | Pittsburgh | |
| N. 11 | Rutgers | |
| N. 26 | Syracuse | |
| D. 3 | @CONNECTICUT | |

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 15
Lettermen returning/lost: 45/18

OFFENSE

| | |
|----|------------------------------------|
| QB | 12 Brian Brohm (6-4, 224, So.) |
| RB | 19 Michael Bush (6-3, 250, Jr.) |
| WT | 78 Travis Leffew (6-4, 301, Sr.) |
| WG | 71 Marcus Gordon (6-6, 320, Jr.) |
| C | 59 Jason Spitz (6-4, 308, Sr.) |
| SG | 76 Kurt Quarterman (6-5, 348, Jr.) |
| ST | 74 Jeremy Darveau (6-7, 321, Sr.) |
| TE | 82 Gary Barnidge (6-6, 230, So.) |
| WR | 9 Joshua Tinch (6-3, 223, Sr.) |
| WR | 86 Montrell Jones (6-0, 199, Sr.) |
| WR | 4 Broderick Clark (6-0, 185, Sr.) |

DEFENSE

| | |
|-----|---------------------------------------|
| DE | 58 Elvis Dumervil (6-0, 256, Sr.) |
| DT | 92 Montavious Stanley (6-2, 321, Sr.) |
| DT | 91 Amobi Okoye (6-1, 317, Jr.) |
| DE | 88 Brandon Cox (6-4, 255, So.) |
| SLB | 43 Abe Brown (6-4, 230, Jr.) |
| MLB | 55 Matt Sanders (6-2, 242, So.) |
| WLB | 97 Brandon Johnson (6-5, 218, Sr.) |
| LCB | 14 Rod Council (5-11, 185, r-Fr.) |
| RCB | 21 William Gay (5-11, 182, Jr.) |
| FS | 35 Brandon Sharp (5-11, 190, Jr.) |
| SS | 5 Antoine Sharp (6-1, 196, Jr.) |

SPECIALISTS

| | |
|----|-----------------------------------|
| PK | 18 Arthur Carmody (5-8, 181, So.) |
| P | 36 Todd Flannery (6-0, 170, So.) |

RATING THE RECRUITS

1. Nate Harris, LB
One of several juco signees expected to contribute.

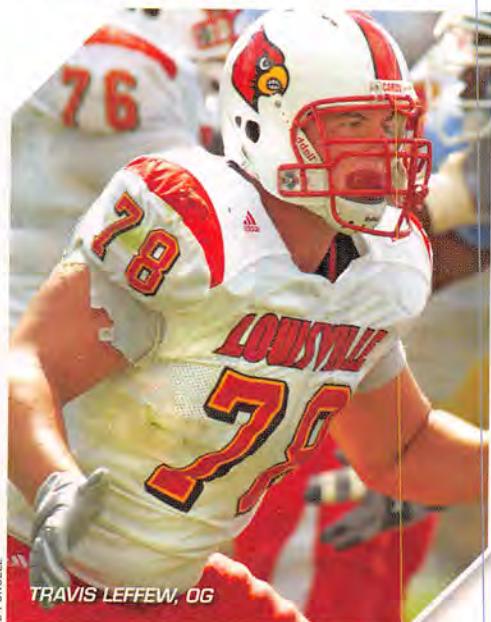
2. Steven Black, WR
Big prep target (6-3, 205) from Birmingham, Ala.

3. Brian Roche, OL
Standout pass blocker from Don Bosco Prep in N.J.

4. Zach Anderson, DE
Juco pass rusher from East Mississippi CC.

5. Marcel Benson, OL
California juco product expected to fill needs now.

ED PURCELL



TRAVIS LEFFEW, OG

PITTSBURGH

PANTHERS

PITT

PITTSBURGH

2004 Record: 8-4 overall, 4-2 Big East (lost to Utah in the Fiesta Bowl, 35-7)

Stadium: Heinz Field

Turf: Grass

Capacity: 65,000

Official athletic Web site: www.pittsburghpanthers.com



FIVE-YEAR WINS TREND

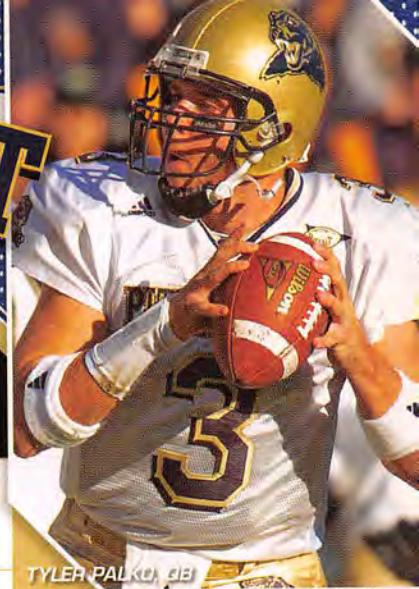
| | | | | |
|------|------|------|------|------|
| 6 | 7 | 9 | 8 | 8 |
| 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 |

PRESEASON RANK:

2

Head coach: Dave Wannstedt, 1st Year (0-0) Career Record: 0-0

Assistant coaches: Bob Junko (asst. head coach/def. tackles), Matt Cavanaugh (off. coord./QBs), Paul Rhoads (def. coord./secondary), Curtis Bray (LBs), Paul Dunn (off. line), Greg Gattuso (TEs/recruiting coord.), Aubrey Hill (WRs), Charlie Partridge (def. ends/special teams), David Walker (RBs)



TYLER PALKO, QB

Will Wannstedt's run-first philosophy mesh with returning offense geared to Palko's passing?

Unlike most new coaches, Dave Wannstedt does not have much of a rebuilding task ahead of him. Sure, he has to mend fences on the Pennsylvania recruiting trail, where predecessor Walt Harris seemed to struggle. But the Pitt alum, who has the same firm jaw and rugged Steeltown looks of the pro coach he'll share Heinz Stadium with (see: Bill Cowher), brings instant credibility both on and off the field.

The Panthers were one of the bigger surprises of 2004, winning the Big East and earning a BCS bid. If they are to repeat in '05, Wannstedt must find a way to merge the run-first strategy he employed in the NFL to a roster more geared toward the passing game.

The hiring of Matt Cavanaugh as offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach should help jump-start a talented, if sometimes underachieving, offense.

Junior quarterback Tyler Palko shrugged off early-season inconsistency in '04 to become one of the nation's hottest quarterbacks by the end of the season, throwing for 3,067 yards and a Big East-high 24 touchdowns. Palko tossed just three

interceptions in the final 10 games, earning all-conference honors.

Palko has two dependable targets in junior wide receivers Greg Lee (68 catches for 1,297 yards and 10 TDs) and Joe DelSardo (49 catches, 573 yards). The Panthers' two top tight ends from last season, Erik Gill and Steve Buches, also return.

Pittsburgh managed just 97.8 yards per game on the ground, 105th in the nation. Still, the running corps is deep, physical and experienced, which should fit the Wannstedt strategy of wearing down opponents. Senior Tim Murphy contributes at tailback and fullback. Senior Raymond Kirkley started at tailback much of last year before missing the final two games with a wrist injury. The most intriguing back is top recruit Conredge Collins out of Miami.

The only thing keeping the Pitt offense from becoming a powerhouse is the offensive line, which has little mobility and must deal with the loss of last year's best player, tackle Rob Petitti. Charles Spencer made a successful transition from defensive tackle to guard last season, earning All-Big East honors. He could shift to tackle, with center Chris Vangas moving to guard.

Wannstedt has made his mark in college and the pros as a defensive mastermind, and he has some building blocks already in place to manage.

Pittsburgh's biggest challenge will be replacing all-conference defensive tackles Vince Crochunis and Dan Stephens. Thomas Smith, who played the last two seasons at end, could move inside. Right end Azzie Beagnyam, who suffered a season-ending ankle fracture in the second game of last season, is expected back at full strength, and true freshman Craig Bokor could start immediately.

Junior linebacker H.B. Blades returns after leading the Panthers with a team-high 108 tackles, 10.5 for losses. H.B. seems on track to follow his father, ex-pro Bennie Blades, into the NFL. The secondary might be the team's deepest unit, led by all-conference right corner Bernard "Josh" Lay. Across the field, Darrelle Revis was one of the nation's top true freshmen in '04.

The Panthers again should have the best kicking game in the conference, returning place-kicker Josh Cummings and punter Adam Graessle, both first-team all-conference choices.



H.B. BLADES, LB



JAHMILLE ADDAE, FS

WEST VIRGINIA MOUNTAINEERS

MORGANTOWN, W.V.A.

2004 Record: 8-4 overall, 4-1 (lost to Florida State in the Gator Bowl, 30-18)

Stadium: Mountaineer Field at Milan Puskar Stadium

Turf: Artificial

Official athletic Web site: www.msnSportsnet.com

Capacity: 60,000

PRESEASON RANK:

FIVE-YEAR WINS TREND

3

7 3 9 8 8
2000 2001 2002 2003 2004

Head coach: Rich Rodriguez, 5th Year (28-21) Career Record: 73-57-2

Assistant coaches: Rick Trickett (asst. head coach/off. line), Jeff Casteel (def. coord.), Calvin Magee (off. coord./RBs), Tony Gibson (def. backs), Herb Hand (TEs/recruiting coord.), Butch Jones (WRs), Bill Kirelawich (def. line), Bill Stewart (QBs/special teams), Bruce Tall (safeties)



2005 SCHEDULE

| DATE | OPPONENT | '04 RESULT |
|-------|----------------|------------|
| S. 3 | @SYRACUSE | 27-6 |
| S. 10 | Wofford | |
| S. 17 | @MARYLAND | 19-16 (OT) |
| S. 24 | East Carolina | 56-23 |
| O. 1 | Virginia Tech | 13-19 |
| O. 8 | @RUTGERS | 35-30 |
| O. 15 | Louisville | |
| O. 22 | @SOUTH FLORIDA | |
| N. 2 | Connecticut | 31-19 |
| N. 9 | @CINCINNATI | |
| N. 24 | Pittsburgh | 13-16 |

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 11
Lettermen returning/lost: 41/26

OFFENSE

| | |
|----|------------------------------------|
| QB | 5 Pat White (6-1, 185, r-Fr.) |
| FB | 33 Justin Dzik (5-11, 225, Jr.) |
| TB | 24 Jason Colson (6-1, 215, Jr.) |
| LT | 70 Travis Garrett (6-6, 305, Sr.) |
| LG | 76 Dan Mozes (6-4, 290, Jr.) |
| C | 57 Jeremy Hines (6-2, 285, Jr.) |
| RG | 65 Jeremy Sheffey (6-3, 290, Jr.) |
| RT | 69 Garin Justice (6-8, 300, Sr.) |
| TE | 49 Josh Bailey (6-5, 265, Sr.) |
| WR | 7 Brandon Myles (6-3, 180, Sr.) |
| WR | 82 Rayshawn Bolden (6-5, 210, Jr.) |

DEFENSE

| | |
|-----|----------------------------------|
| DE | 66 Craig Wilson (6-1, 295, Jr.) |
| DT | 99 Ernest Hunter (6-4, 285, Sr.) |
| DT | 96 Keilen Dykes (6-4, 285, So.) |
| DE | 92 Johnny Dingle (6-3, 245, So.) |
| SLB | 59 Jeff Noechel (6-2, 230, Sr.) |
| MLB | 42 Jay Henry (6-2, 225, Jr.) |
| WLB | 43 Kevin McLee (6-1, 250, Jr.) |
| CB | 26 Anthony Mims (6-0, 175, Sr.) |
| CB | 15 Dee McCann (5-11, 195, Sr.) |
| FS | 4 Jahmille Addae (6-0, 205, Sr.) |
| SS | 23 Mike Lorello (6-1, 200, Sr.) |

SPECIALISTS

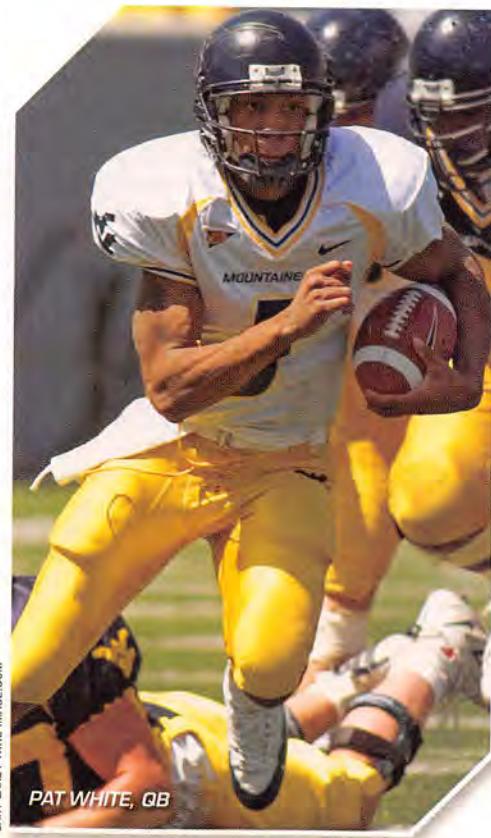
| | |
|----|-------------------------------|
| PK | 44 Andy Good (6-0, 185, So.) |
| P | 38 Phil Brady (5-9, 185, Sr.) |

RATING THE RECRUITS

1. Jason Gwaltney, RB
2. Jarrett Brown, QB
3. Terry Mitchell, QB
4. Steve Slaton, RB
5. Marcus Melvin, DB

*Parade All-American who could play early.
First-team all-stater from Florida (6-3, 190).
Former Va. all-stater and Hargrave Military alum.
Eastern Pa. prep star who'll challenge Gwaltney.
N.C. product will help ease loss of Pac-man Jones.*

GARY LANE / WIRE IMAGE.COM



PAT WHITE, QB

they have two with the skills to do so as early as this season.

Freshman Pat White, a former Alabama Mr. Football, turned down an offer to play baseball for the Angels and selected West Virginia over LSU. He'll likely get the first shot at the job, though he'll be pushed by speedy sophomore Dwayne Thompson, who saw time at wide receiver last season.

The Mountaineers' passing attack was efficient if not eye-popping last season, ranking 22nd in pass efficiency but No. 104 in total passing. No matter, Rodriguez will use junior tailback Jason Colson (686 yards, 4 TDs) to open up the developing passing game. Sophomore water bug Pernell Williams also figures to get some carries, but the player to watch is freshman Jason Gwaltney, a power-running Parade All-American from Long Island, N.Y., who chose WVU over Southern Cal and Ohio State.

West Virginia will continue to run because of a solid offensive line led by returning starting guards Dan Mozes and Jeremy Sheffey, both juniors, and tackle Garin Justice, a senior.

The team improved from 74th to 37th in total defense last season and returns six starters, with the notable exception of Jones, arguably the school's top cornerback ever. Senior Dee McCann will offer a bigger body (5-11, 195) at the 5-9 Pac-man's old post. Senior Anthony Mims occupies the other corner, with four other semi-experienced players making the position the team's deepest. Senior safeties Mike Lorello and Jahmille Addae, a first-team all-conference performer in '04, round out perhaps the league's best secondary—even without Jones.

Defensive tackle Ernest Hunter will anchor the line, along with sophomore Keilen Dykes. Sophomore end Johnny Dingle, a transfer from Florida, gets a shot after sitting out a year. Adam Lehnert and his cocksure swagger will be missed in the linebacking corps, which is unproven but gets a big injection of talent from the recruiting class.

After last season's kicking miseries, Rodriguez made it a priority in recruiting, landing Pat McAfee and Scott Kozlowski. McAfee will challenge sophomore placekicker Andy Good, who emerged late last season, while Kozlowski could unseat senior punter Phil Brady.

CONNECTICUT

HUSKIES

STORRS, CONN.

2004 Record: 8-4 overall, 3-3 Big East (beat Toledo in the Motor City Bowl, 39-10)

Stadium: Rentschler Field

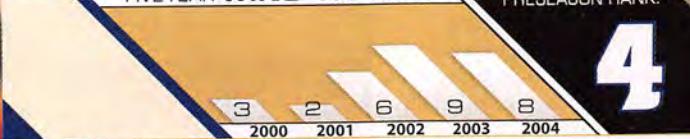
Official athletic Web site: www.uconnhuskies.com

Turf: Grass

Capacity: 40,000



FIVE-YEAR WINS TREND



Head coach: Randy Edsall, 7th Year (32-37) Career Record: 32-37

Assistant coaches: Norries Wilson (off. coord./Cs/QBs), Hank Hughes (asst. head coach def./def. line), Todd Orlando (def. coord./ILBs), Rob Ambrose (pass. game coord./QBs), Lyndon Johnson (SIs coord./OLBs), Scott Lakatos (DBs), Vinny Marino (recruiting coord./WRs), Dave McMichael (OTs/TEs), Terry Richardson (RBs)

PRESEASON RANK:

4



Huskies lose lead dog in NFL-bound QB Orlovsky, but strong one-two rushing punch could carry them

Jt's been quite a run for Connecticut. Since Nov. 1, 2002, the Huskies have posted a 21-7 record, including a win in last year's Motor City Bowl that capped an 8-4 season.

With a bowl victory, a new stadium and coach Randy Edsall signed to a six-year contract extension, the Huskies have proven they can be a legitimate Big East contender. Now the question is whether they can remain competitive without much of last year's defensive core and all-everything quarterback Dan Orlovsky, who helped Edsall lift the program up from Division I-AA.

With Orlovsky, the Huskies averaged 429.8 yards per game, 19th in the nation, and had a 10th-ranked passing game. With a new quarterback and three new linemen, it's a sure bet that Edsall will run the ball far more in '05.

That's not necessarily a bad thing. The Huskies still have an explosive ground attack featuring juniors Cornell Brockington and Terry Caulley, perhaps the nation's best backfield duo now that

Ronnie Brown and Carnell Williams have left Auburn for the NFL.

Caulley, a Freshman All-American in 2002, was leading the nation in rushing with 601 yards in 2003 when he injured a knee. He sat out all of last season. Brockington led the Big East in rushing as a sophomore in '04 with 1,218 yards. If the 5-7 Caulley regains his speed, he'll add a dimension to the offense that last year's team lacked.

The backs should ease the transition of junior Matt Bonislawski, the front-runner to replace Orlovsky, though highly touted redshirt freshman D.J. Hernandez will push him. Both quarterbacks run better than their dropback predecessor and could improve on Orlovsky's 15 interceptions from '04.

Three of the Huskies' five wide receivers from a year ago have graduated, but it's still a deep unit. Senior Jason Williams figures to be the go-to guy, though speedy junior Brandon Young is back after missing all of '04 with a foot injury. Sophomore Brandon McLean is small (5-10, 157 pounds), but also figures into the mix. Junior Dan Murray (6-5, 244) is a prototype tight end who could play a more prominent role after a 28-catch season.

Defensive end Shawn Mayne will face more double teams now that Tyler King is gone. Junior Jason Ward filled in admirably last season when King was hurt and that should help his transition into full-time duty. Defensive tackle Deon McPhee, a senior co-captain, anchors the line at tackle.

Linebackers Alfred Fincher and Maurice Lloyd will be missed, as well as cornerback Justin Perkins. Linebacker James Hargrave, a senior, and junior safety M.J. Estep should play more prominent roles. The secondary must improve on last year's interception total (10). The talent is there with junior cornerbacks Ernest Cole and Allan Barnes.

Still, it will be tough to match last season's defensive unit, which ranked No. 27 in the country in total defense (327 yards per game) while allowing just 21.7 points per game.

After a miserable freshman year in 2003, kicker Matt Nuzie connected on 20 of 28 field goals last season and was a semifinalist for the Lou Groza Award.



2005 SCHEDULE

| DATE | OPPONENT | '04 RESULT |
|-------|----------------|------------|
| S. 1 | Buffalo | 29-0 |
| S. 10 | Liberty | |
| S. 17 | @GEORGIA TECH | 10-30 |
| O. 1 | @ARMY | 40-3 |
| O. 7 | Syracuse | 30-42 |
| O. 15 | @CINCINNATI | |
| O. 22 | Rutgers | 41-35 |
| N. 2 | @WEST VIRGINIA | 19-31 |
| N. 12 | @PITTSBURGH | 29-17 |
| N. 26 | South Florida | |
| D. 3 | Louisville | |

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 13
Lettermen returning/lost: 35/22

OFFENSE

| | |
|----|--|
| QB | 16 Matt Bonislawski (6-4, 207, Jr.) |
| FB | 30 Dean Anderson (5-11, 240, Sr.) |
| TB | 33 Cornell Brockington (6-0, 192, Jr.) |
| LT | 78 Grant Preston (6-4, 307, Sr.) |
| LG | 57 Matt Applebaum (6-4, 283, Jr.) |
| C | 56 Joe Akers (6-1, 297, Fr.) |
| RG | 75 Brian Kersmann (6-5, 299, So.) |
| RT | 72 Craig Berry (6-6, 324, Jr.) |
| TE | 46 Dan Murray (6-5, 244, Jr.) |
| WR | 80 Jason Williams (6-0, 177, Sr.) |
| WR | 83 Brandon Young (6-0, 200, Jr.) |

DEFENSE

| | |
|-----|------------------------------------|
| DE | 40 Shawn Mayne (6-3, 243, Sr.) |
| DT | 76 Deon McPhee (6-2, 284, Sr.) |
| DT | 93 Rhema Fuller (6-3, 283, Jr.) |
| DE | 59 Jason Ward (6-3, 248, Jr.) |
| SLB | 32 James Hargrave (5-11, 224, Sr.) |
| MLB | 47 Taurien Sowell (6-0, 236, Sr.) |
| WLB | 48 Danny Lansanah (6-1, 247, So.) |
| CB | 41 Ernest Cole (5-10, 177, Jr.) |
| CB | 26 Allan Barnes (6-0, 190, Jr.) |
| FS | 35 M.J. Estep (6-1, 197, Jr.) |
| SS | 38 Ricky McCollum (6-1, 217, So.) |

SPECIALISTS

| | |
|----|----------------------------------|
| PK | 98 Matt Nuzie (5-11, 200, Jr.) |
| P | 37 Shane Hussar (5-10, 190, So.) |

RATING THE RECRUITS

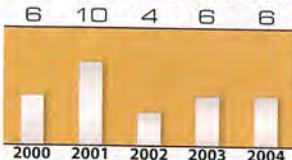
- Joe Akers, OL
Touted Maryland all-stater shows great potential.
- Travis Watson, WR
A rare recruit from Texas expected to help soon.
- Rob Getek, TE
Massive blocker may be tested in interior of line.
- Andre Dixon, RB
Touted N.J. recruit seeks early playing time.
- Donald Brown, RB/DB
Another N.J. product; will be tested on both sides.



SYRACUSE ORANGE

2004 Record: 6-6 overall, 4-2 Big East
(lost to Georgia Tech in the Champs Sports Bowl, 51-14)
Official athletic Web site: www.suathletics.com

FIVE-YEAR WINS TREND



2005 SCHEDULE

| DATE | OPPONENT | '04 RESULT |
|-------|----------------|------------|
| S. 3 | West Virginia | 6-27 |
| S. 10 | Buffalo | 37-17 |
| S. 17 | Virginia | 10-31 |
| O. 1 | @FLORIDA STATE | 13-17 |
| O. 7 | @CONNECTICUT | 42-30 |
| O. 15 | Rutgers | 41-31 |
| O. 22 | @PITTSBURGH | 38-31 (OT) |
| O. 29 | Cincinnati | 19-7 |
| N. 12 | South Florida | |
| N. 19 | @NOTRE DAME | |
| N. 26 | @LOUISVILLE | |

Head coach: Greg Robinson,
1st Year (0-0)

Career Record: 0-0

Stadium: Carrier Dome

Turf: Artificial

Capacity: 49,262

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 15
Lettermen returning/lost: 27/11

OFFENSE

| | |
|----|------------------------------------|
| QB | 10 Perry Patterson (6-4, 248, Jr.) |
| FB | 38 Breyon Evans (6-0, 234, So.) |
| TB | 1 Damien Rhodes (6-0, 217, Sr.) |
| OT | 73 Kurt Falke (6-6, 287, Sr.) |
| OG | 72 Jason Greene (6-6, 300, Sr.) |
| C | 71 Steve Franklin (6-5, 321, Sr.) |
| OG | 68 Ryan Durand (6-5, 320, r-Fr.) |
| OT | 69 Quinn Ojinnaka (6-5, 297, Sr.) |
| TE | 85 Joe Kowalewski (6-4, 262, Sr.) |
| WR | 81 Tim Lane (6-2, 212, Jr.) |
| WR | 82 Rice Moss (6-2, 195, So.) |

DEFENSE

| | |
|-----|-------------------------------------|
| LE | 90 James Wyche (6-6, 267, Sr.) |
| NT | 51 Tony Jenkins (6-3, 293, So.) |
| DT | 70 Kader Drame (6-5, 284, Sr.) |
| RE | 94 Ryan LaCasse (6-3, 255, Sr.) |
| SLB | 41 Kellen Pruitt (6-4, 226, Sr.) |
| MLB | 57 Jerry Mackey (6-1, 241, Jr.) |
| WLB | 92 Tommy Harris (6-2, 238, Sr.) |
| LCB | 28 Tanard Jackson (6-1, 189, Jr.) |
| RCB | 15 DeAndre LaCaille (6-0, 210, Sr.) |
| FS | 20 Anthony Smith (6-1, 187, Sr.) |
| SS | 36 Reggie McCoy (6-0, 187, So.) |

SPECIALISTS

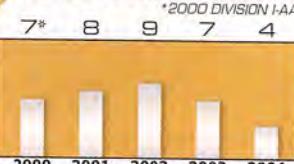
| | |
|----|-----------------------------------|
| PK | 47 Brendan Carney (6-5, 202, Jr.) |
| P | 47 Brendan Carney (6-5, 202, Jr.) |

SOUTH FLORIDA BULLS



2004 Record: 4-7 overall, 3-5 Conference USA
Official athletic Web site: www.gobulls.usf.edu

FIVE-YEAR WINS TREND



2005 SCHEDULE

| DATE | OPPONENT | '04 RESULT |
|-------|---------------|------------|
| S. 3 | @PENN STATE | |
| S. 10 | Florida A&M | |
| S. 17 | UCF | |
| S. 24 | Louisville | 9-41 |
| O. 1 | @MIAMI (FL) | |
| O. 15 | @PITTSTURGH | 14-43 |
| O. 22 | West Virginia | |
| N. 5 | @RUTGERS | |
| N. 12 | @SYRACUSE | |
| N. 19 | Cincinnati | 23-45 |
| N. 26 | @CONNECTICUT | |

Head coach: Jim Leavitt,
9th Year (55-33)

Career Record: 55-33

Stadium: Raymond James Stadium

Turf: Grass

Capacity: 65,000

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 16
Lettermen returning/lost: 39/32

OFFENSE

| | |
|----|---------------------------------------|
| QB | 3 Pat Julmiste (6-3, 220, Jr.) |
| FB | 39 Siaosi Uhlatafe (6-2, 240, So.) |
| TB | 2 Andre Hall (5-10, 205, Sr.) |
| LT | 72 Jerome Springfield (6-8, 320, So.) |
| LG | 68 Frank Davis (6-4, 310, Sr.) |
| C | 61 John Miller (6-0, 275, Sr.) |
| RG | 74 Chris Carothers (6-3, 290, Sr.) |
| RT | 78 Mark Dile (6-4, 275, So.) |
| TE | 85 Derek Carter (6-4, 240, Sr.) |
| WR | 81 S.J. Green (6-3, 200, Jr.) |
| WR | 8 Johnny Peyton (6-5, 185, So.) |

DEFENSE

| | |
|-----|---------------------------------------|
| DE | 46 Tavarious Robinson (6-4, 255, Jr.) |
| NT | 94 Allen Cray (6-0, 265, So.) |
| DT | 99 Tim Jones (6-3, 265, Sr.) |
| DE | 56 Terrence Royal (6-3, 255, Sr.) |
| SLB | 51 Stephen Nicholas (6-3, 225, Jr.) |
| MLB | 59 Ben Moffit (6-2, 230, So.) |
| WLB | 58 Ronnie McCullough (6-1, 220, So.) |
| LCB | 21 Trae Williams (5-10, 185, So.) |
| RCB | 42 D'Juan Brown (5-11, 175, Sr.) |
| FS | 17 Danny Verpaele (5-11, 185, So.) |
| SS | 27 Johnnie Jones (6-3, 205, So.) |

SPECIALISTS

| | |
|----|----------------------------------|
| PK | 35 Kyle Bronson (6-0, 190, So.) |
| P | 47 Brandon Baker (6-4, 200, Sr.) |

South Florida has gone from start-up program to member of a BCS conference in just eight years, not missing a beat until last season's 4-7 record in its second and final campaign in Conference USA.

Jim Leavitt, the only head coach USF has employed, has long envisioned the Bulls as competitors on the field and on the recruiting trail with in-state powers Florida, Florida State and Miami. With a 2005 schedule that includes seven schools that played in bowls last season—including a first-ever matchup with Miami—Leavitt should learn quickly if USF has bridged the gap.

The Bulls are 28-16 since making the leap to Division I-A. Last year's record was USF's worst ever, but of the Bulls' 20 departing seniors, only five started all season and three of those were on the offensive line.

No doubt that trio will be missed by running back Andre Hall, who briefly thought of turning pro after rushing for 1,357 yards and 11 touchdowns on 210 carries. The 5-foot-10, 205-pound Hall figures to face a tougher challenge this season with a younger line and an unsettled quarterback situation.

Pat Julmiste unseated Ronnie Banks before last season as the starting QB, but completed just 47.8 percent of his passes. Julmiste will face a challenge from sophomore Courtney Denson, a transfer from Auburn.

Defensively, the Bulls picked off just four passes last year, second fewest in Division I-A, and three were by players who have since graduated. The defensive line lost tackle Lee Roy Selmon Jr. and two part-time starters, but will get a boost from the return of senior defensive tackle Tim Jones, who was redshirted last year. Junior linebacker Stephen Nicholas enjoyed a breakout season in '04.

The Bulls play to modest crowds at Raymond James Stadium and remain overshadowed by Florida and Florida State. They go virtually unnoticed in the nation's No. 13 media market, with modest expectations held by most everyone except Leavitt.

"Last year was the first time we hit some struggles," he says. "Standards are high and I don't want the expectations for this program to lower. It's my job to get us right back in the hunt and I'm planning on that happening this year."

CINCINNATI BEARCATS

2004 Record: 7-5 overall, 5-3 Conference USA
beat Marshall in the Fort Worth Bowl, 32-14
Official athletic Web site: www.ucbearcats.com

The Bearcats enter the Big East coming off a 7-5 season, winning five of their last six, including a win over Marshall in the Fort Worth Bowl. Ambitious second-year coach Mark Dantonio, formerly defensive coordinator at Ohio State, seems like the guy to make Cincinnati a perennial contender.

Despite all of those positives, it's not the best of times for UC to take a step up in competition. Not after losing its top eight defensive players, including all-conference defensive ends Trent Cole and Andre Frazier and top linebacker Lamar Enzor. On offense, the team will miss record-setting quarterback Gino Guidugli, most of the offensive line, the leading rusher (Richard Hall) and receiver Hannibal Thomas. About the only unit intact is special teams, where placekicker Kevin Lovell and punter Chet Ervin return.

In its last five seasons in Conference USA, Cincinnati posted a co-championship and three runner-up finishes, including a four-way tie last year. It got a scary preview of life without Guidugli in its last regular-season game of '04, losing to fellow Big East transfer Louisville 70-7 while the Bearcat quarterback sat out with a broken hand.

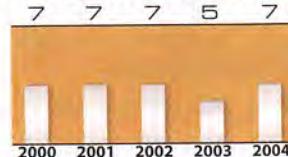
Finding a replacement for Guidugli is Dantonio's top priority. Redshirt freshman Dustin Grutza holds an edge over two-time Junior College All-American Nick Davila, sophomore Todd Spitzer and freshman Tony Pike.

Sophomore running backs Butler Benton (453 yards rushing on 100 carries) and Bradley Glatthaar (315 on 72) will take over for Hall. Junior tight end Brent Celek (8 TDs) returns, as does left tackle Steve Eastlake, who will start for a third season.

Adam Roberts, who moved from defensive end to tackle last year, is one of the few significant defensive contributors returning, along with cornerback Antoine Horton and safeties JaJuan Hall and Dominic Ross. Anthony Hoke, a member of last season's Conference USA All-Freshman Team, is a leading candidate to fill one of the spots at defensive end.



FIVE-YEAR WINS TREND



2005 SCHEDULE

| DATE | OPPONENT | '04 RESULT |
|-------|------------------|------------|
| S. 1 | Eastern Michigan | |
| S. 10 | @PENN STATE | |
| S. 17 | Western Carolina | |
| S. 28 | @MIAMI (OH) | 45-26 |
| O. 8 | @PITTSBURGH | |
| O. 15 | Connecticut | |
| O. 22 | Louisville | 7-70 |
| O. 29 | @SYRACUSE | 7-19 |
| N. 9 | West Virginia | |
| N. 19 | @SOUTH FLORIDA | 45-23 |
| N. 26 | @RUTGERS | |

Head coach: Mark Dantonio,
2nd Year (7-5)

Career Record: 7-5

Stadium: Nippert Stadium

Turf: Artificial

Capacity: 35,000

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 7
Lettermen returning/lost: 36/26

OFFENSE

| | |
|-----------|-------------------------------------|
| QB | 4 Dustin Grutza (6-3, 200, Fr.) |
| FB | 86 Doug Jones (6-4, 282, So.) |
| TB | 23 Butler Benton (6-1, 210, So.) |
| LT | 71 Steve Eastlake (6-5, 294, Sr.) |
| LG | 70 Ryan Brown (6-2, 287, Sr.) |
| C | 58 Matt Webster (6-3, 284, Sr.) |
| RG | 57 Jeff Reinstatler (6-2, 287, Jr.) |
| RT | 78 Frank Straub (6-6, 311, Jr.) |
| TE | 85 Brent Celek (6-4, 250, Jr.) |
| WR | 14 Earnest Jackson (6-3, 200, So.) |
| WR | 22 Derick Ross (5-10, 191, Sr.) |

DEFENSE

| | |
|-----------|-----------------------------------|
| DE | 12 Anthony Hoke (6-1, 235, So.) |
| DT | 94 Adam Roberts (6-3, 257, Sr.) |
| DT | 61 Jordan Roth (6-2, 275, So.) |
| DE | 56 Michael Brown (6-2, 234, Sr.) |
| LB | 55 Leo Morgan (6-1, 230, Jr.) |
| LB | 31 Jon Carpenter (5-11, 220, So.) |
| LB | 82 Angelo Craig (6-5, 205, So.) |
| CB | 5 Antoine Horton (5-10, 185, Jr.) |
| CB | 33 John Bowie (5-11, 190, Jr.) |
| FS | 38 JaJuan Hall (6-0, 186, Jr.) |
| SS | 49 Dominic Ross (6-0, 201, Jr.) |

SPECIALISTS

| | |
|-----------|----------------------------------|
| PK | 15 Kevin Lovell (5-10, 150, Jr.) |
| P | 12 Chet Ervin (6-3, 190, Sr.) |

RUTGERS SCARLET KNIGHTS



2004 Record: 4-7 overall, 1-5 Big East
Official athletic Web site: www.scarletknights.com

This fall, Greg Schiano will field the most experienced team he's had in his five seasons at Rutgers, with 16 returning starters. He can turn to his top five rushers from 2004, his top nine receivers and 10 of his leading 11 tacklers.

The Scarlet Knights have not had a winning season since 1992 and have been to just one bowl game in their history. A breakthrough season seems unlikely. After all, Rutgers returned 17 starters from a 5-7 team last year and fell to 4-7.

The team won just one conference game in 2004 and that opponent (Temple) has been evicted from the Big East. Most of last year's offensive line is gone, along with leading tackler Jarvis Johnson. There's no momentum from last season for the Scarlet Knights, not after surrendering 96 points and 1,100 yards in their final two games.

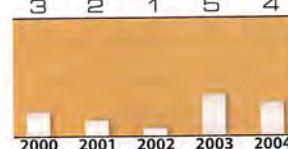
Still, there's reason for optimism, and not just because Rutgers played competitively last season against Connecticut, Syracuse, West Virginia and departing conference power Boston College. Junior tailbacks Brian Leonard and Justise Harrison figure to rank among the best rushing tandems in the league. Quarterback Ryan Hart, a veteran of 27 starts, led the Big East in yards per game (286.7), completing 65.1 percent of his passes for 3,154 yards and 17 touchdowns.

Leonard, who models his game after that of Tampa Bay Buccaneers fullback Mike Alstott, led the league in all-purpose yards per game (125.0) and caught 61 passes for 518 yards, both tops in the nation for running backs. Hart projects as the starting signal-caller, but after too many turnovers last season Schiano is opening the door for Mike Teel or Terrence Shawell to take over.

Whoever ends up behind center can turn to two all-conference picks: wide receiver Tres Moses, who caught 81 passes for 1,056 yards, and tight end Clark Harris (53 receptions).

Senior defensive end Ryan Neill, who recorded eight sacks and earned all-conference honors in 2004, leads a unit that should be bolstered by the addition of defensive lineman Carl Howard, a former New Jersey prep star who sat out last season after transferring from Virginia Tech.

FIVE-YEAR WINS TREND



2005 SCHEDULE

| DATE | OPPONENT | '04 RESULT |
|-------|---------------|------------|
| S. 3 | @ILLINOIS | |
| S. 10 | Villanova | |
| S. 17 | @BUFFALO | |
| S. 30 | Pittsburgh | 17-41 |
| O. 8 | West Virginia | 30-35 |
| O. 15 | @SYRACUSE | 31-41 |
| O. 22 | @CONNECTICUT | 35-41 |
| O. 29 | Navy | 21-54 |
| N. 5 | South Florida | |
| N. 11 | @LOUISVILLE | |
| N. 26 | Cincinnati | |

Head coach: Greg Schiano,
5th Year (12-34)

Career Record: 12-34

Stadium: Rutgers Stadium

Turf: Artificial

Capacity: 42,000

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 16
Lettermen returning/lost: 43/25

OFFENSE

| | |
|-----------|-------------------------------------|
| QB | 13 Ryan Hart (6-2, 200, Sr.) |
| FB | 23 Brian Leonard (6-2, 230, Sr.) |
| RB | 2 Clarence Pittman (5-10, 208, Sr.) |
| OT | 77 Pedro Sosa (6-5, 300, So.) |
| OG | 71 Jeremy Zuttah (6-4, 285, So.) |
| C | 57 Joe Giacobbe (6-1, 270, Jr.) |
| OG | 76 John Glass (6-5, 300, Sr.) |
| OT | 79 Sameeh McDonald (6-5, 295, Sr.) |
| TE | 81 Clark Harris (6-6, 250, Sr.) |
| WR | 8 Tres Moses (5-10, 191, Sr.) |
| WR | 4 Shawn Tucker (6-2, 205, Jr.) |

DEFENSE

| | |
|-----------|---------------------------------------|
| DE | 94 Val Barnaby (6-5, 270, Sr.) |
| DT | 98 Luis Rivas (6-4, 285, Sr.) |
| DT | 65 Cameron Stephenson (6-5, 305, So.) |
| DE | 91 Ryan Neill (6-3, 260, Sr.) |
| LB | 3 Terry Bynes (6-2, 225, Sr.) |
| LB | 20 Devraun Thompson (5-11, 225, Jr.) |
| LB | 38 Will Gilkison (6-2, 230, Sr.) |
| CB | 24 Joe Porter (6-0, 198, Jr.) |
| CB | 11 Derrick Roberson (5-10, 175, Jr.) |
| S | 43 Ron Girault (5-11, 195, So.) |
| S | 33 Jason Nugent (6-1, 209, Sr.) |

SPECIALISTS

| | |
|-----------|--------------------------------|
| PK | 1 Jeremy Ito (5-11, 180, So.) |
| P | 30 Joe Radigan (6-5, 220, Jr.) |

BIG TEN

Games to watch:

>> Iowa at Purdue, Oct. 8
If Boilermakers get past this one, a Big Ten title will be in clear view.

>> Michigan at Iowa, Oct. 22

Bigest hurdle standing in the way of Wolverines and a Big Ten championship.

>> Ohio State at Michigan, Nov. 19

Buckeyes look for fourth series win in five years.

BIG TEN CONFERENCE PREDICTED ORDER OF FINISH:

p.44
M



p.46
P



p.48
O



p.50
I



p.52
S



p.53
M



p.53
I



p.57
W



p.57
I



p.57
P



p.54
P



p.55
N



p.56
W



p.57
I



p.57
P



official conference Web site:
www.bigten.org

Street & Smith's ALL-CONFERENCE

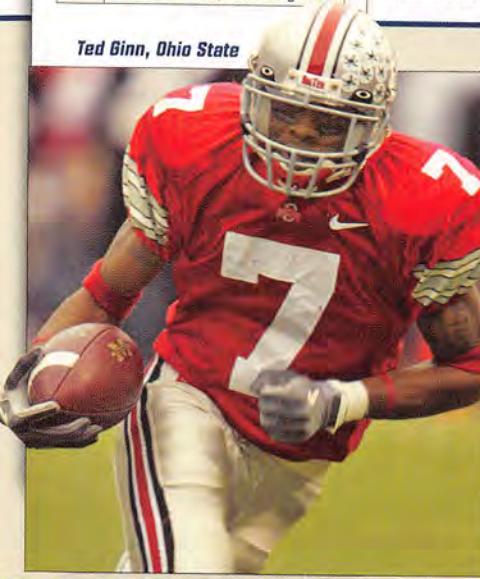
Offense

| | |
|----|---|
| QB | Drew Tate, Jr., Iowa |
| RB | Michael Hart, Soph., Michigan |
| RB | Laurence Maroney, Jr., Minnesota |
| OL | Greg Eslinger, Sr., Minnesota |
| OL | Matt Lenz, Sr., Michigan |
| OL | Mark Setterstrom, Sr., Minnesota |
| DL | Nick Mangold, Sr., Ohio State |
| DL | Stephon Wheeler, Sr., Michigan St. |
| WR | Ted Ginn, Soph., Ohio State |
| WR | Kyle Ingraham, Jr., Purdue |
| TE | Charles Davis, Sr., Purdue |
| PK | Kyle Schlicher, Jr., Iowa |

Defense

| | |
|----|--|
| DL | Gabe Watson, Sr., Michigan |
| DL | Brendon Villarreal, Sr., Purdue |
| DL | LaMarr Woodley, Jr., Michigan |
| LB | A.J. Hawk, Sr., Ohio State |
| LB | Abdul Hodge, Sr., Iowa |
| LB | Tim McGerigle, Sr., Northwestern |
| LB | Chad Greenway, Sr., Iowa |
| DB | Tracy Porter, Soph., Indiana |
| DB | Ashton Youboty, Sr., Ohio State |
| DB | Brett Bell, Sr., Wisconsin |
| DB | Calvin Lowry, Sr., Penn State |
| P | Brandon Fields, Sr., Michigan St. |

Ted Ginn, Ohio State



Proven talent is back in abundance, but there's still room for a surprise at the top

By Jack Ebling
Street & Smith's Correspondent

Despite contributing half of the Final Four for the third time in seven seasons, the Big Ten is more than a basketball conference.

With nine consensus All-Americans last year (more than any other league), four Top 25 teams in the final polls (tied for first with the SEC), three bowl winners and three others that lost postseason games by a total of eight points, the Big Ten proved it still plays excellent football.

If that message didn't get through in 2004, it should this fall when four teams vie for national honors.

Michigan and Ohio State? What else is new? But those powers with a combined 71 conference titles aren't alone. Iowa has had three straight seasons with double-digit wins. And Purdue could be as dangerous as any team in any league.

That's saying something this year in a conference with more proven talent than Big Ten coaches have seen in many years. Fifteen first-team all-league selections return, including a pair of All-Americans in Ohio State junior linebacker A.J. Hawk and Michigan State senior punter Brandon Fields.

Eight programs return starting quarterbacks, all but Purdue, Illinois and Indiana. Six of the top 10 rushers are back, including Michigan sophomore Michael Hart (1,455 yards last season) and Minnesota junior Laurence Maroney (1,348). And seven of the top 10 receivers will boost their career totals.

Despite the departures of 30 NFL draft picks, including seven from Wisconsin, every Big Ten team but the Badgers will have more than half its

Rating the recruits

1. Michigan

What's new? Nothing. The Wolverines reload.

2. Ohio State

Three straight bowl wins didn't hurt the harvest.

3. Iowa

Thirty-one wins in three years unlocked new doors.

4. Penn State

Joe Paterno's best incoming class in many years.

5. Wisconsin

Badgers protected back yard, then branched out.

6. Illinois

Excellent start for new coach Ron Zook and his staff.

7. Purdue

Joe Tiller got all eight of his in-state targets.

8. Michigan State

Still building depth to avoid deep trouble.

9. Minnesota

Gophers got athletes, will now make them players.

10. Northwestern

More than one star from the Lone Star State.

11. Indiana

Decent start in Terry Hoeppner's Big Ten debut.

starters back. Nine of the 11 programs return at least three first-team offensive linemen. Nine others have two or more defensive linemen back.

The conference welcomes two new head coaches. Ron Zook moves from Florida to Illinois but gets to keep his orange-and-blue wardrobe. And Terry Hoeppner heads to Indiana after six years of excellence at Miami of Ohio.

The good news for the Fighting Illini and the Hoosiers is that seven schools have won or shared the Big Ten title in the past decade. The bad news for both teams is that it's a long climb to the top after a 1-7 league finish.

Difficult, but not impossible. If the I's have it tougher than most teams, Zook and Hoeppner need to follow the trail blazed by Iowa coach Kirk Ferentz. From a one-win season in 1999 to a second shared crown in the last three seasons, Ferentz has shown what can happen with a total commitment.

Ferentz is still three league championships and 53 wins behind Lloyd Carr of Michigan, who needs just one victory to join Barry Alvarez of Wisconsin and nine other coaches in the Big Ten's 100-win club.

Carr and Ohio State's Jim Tressel have national titles to their credit. Carr could well add another Big Ten ring next winter. If he doesn't, look to a program with a lot more to prove and the talent to do so, Purdue.

Rating the players

Fastest receiver: **Ted Ginn, Ohio State**

Best hands: **Jason Avant, WR, Michigan**

Best passing QB: **Drew Tate, Iowa**

Best running QB: **Drew Stanton, Michigan State**

Most elusive RB: **Laurence Maroney, Minnesota**

Best instincts: **Tim McGerigle, LB, Northwestern**

Best athlete: **Steve Breaston, WR/KR, Michigan**

Best under pressure: **Drew Tate, QB, Iowa**

Top NFL prospect: **Ted Ginn, WR/CB/KR, Ohio State**

Top impact freshman: **Justin King, CB, Penn State**

Hardest hitter: **LaMarr Woodley, DE/DLB Michigan**

Biggest underachiever: **Justin Zwick, QB, Ohio State**

Rating the coaches

Best strategist: **Kirk Ferentz, Iowa**

Best recruiter: **Lloyd Carr, Michigan**

Coach on the spot: **Joe Paterno, Penn State**

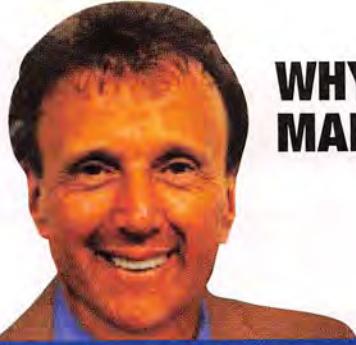
Don't be surprised if ...

An outright championship for Purdue (without playing Michigan or Ohio State) prompts talk of a 10-game, round-robin Big Ten schedule in a 12-game season.

One man's opinion

"Michigan has the best talent again, but you could have a four-way tie for the title. And four or five other teams are good enough to spring an upset that decides who wins it."

—Big Ten assistant coach



WHY IS THIS MAN SMILING?



WHY IS THIS MAN BITING THE DUST?

Because the '05 season is about to start & Jim Hurley is about to beat him for all the money!

I've Done It For 19 Of The Last 20 Years And I'm Only Getting Better:

- ✓ Last year we won 12 weeks out of 17
- ✓ We won pre-season
- ✓ We won all 4 weeks of September going 19-6
- ✓ By September 1st \$100 bettors were betting \$200 Units - by seasons end they were playing \$500

✓ We went 9-1 in the NFL Playoffs, culminating with Eagles plus the points and the Under in Superbowl XXXIX.

Players who followed my instructions to the letter cleared \$25,000 and couldn't stop smiling!

"Sharp numbers and a great instinct have made Jim a perennial winner."
Street & Smith Football Annual

"A leader in advanced analysis and a formidable prognosticator."
Athlon Football Annual

All Because We Got Off To A Great Start!

While Vegas sleepwalks the pre-season, we consider it SEED MONEY! We roll our August profits over a DOZEN times by the Superbowl! We did it last year - we're going to do it again and you're invited!



Look How My Top Six Came Through Last Year

Average Cover 19pts

PRE-SEASON GAME OF YR:

9/2 Cardinals (+7) Broncos 33-21 W

PRE SEASON UPSET OF YR:

8/28 Browns (+5) Chiefs 21-19 W

GAME OF MONTH:

8/16 Seahawks (+3) Packers 21-3 W

COLLEGE KICKOFF OF YR:

8/28 Va Tech (+17½) USC 13-24 W

BLOWOUT OF YR:

8/28 Colts (-4) Bills 30-17 W

AUGUST TRIPLE CROWN:

8/21 Steelers (-3½) Texans 38-3 W

Jets (+4½) Colts 31-7 W

Chargers (+3) Cards 38-13 W

We start winning August 6th with the American Bowl in Tokyo (Falcons/Colts) and The Hall of Fame Game Canton Ohio Aug 8th (Bears/Dolphins). Thereafter it's lopsided lines and big fisted winning every week! We hit 76% last August. If we come anywhere near that number this year, Vegas won't be biting dust - they'll be eating dirt!

BONUS



CALL
TOLL
FREE!

1-800-323-4453

also available at www.jimhurley.com

All Major Credit Cards Accepted: Visa, MC, AMEX, Disc.

Or write

Jim Hurley's Network
366 No. Broadway
Suite 410
Jericho, NY 11753

My **NETWORK BULLETIN** Football Newsletter - mailed 1st class Sunday Night or e-mailed (your option). Provides industry's most respected power ratings, plus advance analysis of every college/NFL game. **A \$75 VALUE!**



CHAD HENNE, QB

MICHIGAN

MICHIGAN WOLVERINES



ANN ARBOR, MICH.

2004 Record: 9-3 overall, 7-1 Big Ten (lost to Texas in the Rose Bowl, 38-37)

Stadium: Michigan Stadium

Official athletic Web site: www.mgobule.com

Turf: Artificial

Capacity: 107,501

PRESEASON RANK:

FIVE-YEAR WINS TREND

1

9 8 10 10 9
2000 2001 2002 2003 2004

Head coach: Lloyd Carr, 11th Year (95-29) Career Record: 95-29

Assistant coaches: Erik Campbell (asst. head coach/WRs), Mike DeBord (special teams/recruiting coord.), Ron English (def. secondary), Jim Herrmann (def. coord./LBS), Fred Jackson (assoc. head coach/RBs), Scot Loeffler (QBs), Terry Malone (off. coord./TEs), Andy Moeller (off. line), Steve Stripling (def. line)



2005 SCHEDULE

| DATE | OPPONENT | '04 RESULT |
|-------|-------------------|------------|
| S. 3 | Northern Illinois | |
| S. 10 | Notre Dame | 20-28 |
| S. 17 | Eastern Michigan | |
| S. 24 | @WISCONSIN | |
| O. 1 | @MICHIGAN STATE | 45-37 (OT) |
| O. 8 | Minnesota | 27-24 |
| O. 15 | Penn State | |
| O. 22 | @IOWA | 30-17 |
| O. 29 | @NORTHWESTERN | 42-20 |
| N. 12 | Indiana | 35-14 |
| N. 19 | Ohio State | 21-37 |

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 16
Lettermen returning/lost: 48/22

OFFENSE

| | | |
|----|----|--------------------------------|
| QB | 7 | Chad Henne (6-2, 217, So.) |
| FB | 40 | Obi Oluigbo (6-0, 237, Sr.) |
| TB | 20 | Michael Hart (5-9, 192, So.) |
| LT | 79 | Adam Stenavich (6-5, 317, Sr.) |
| LG | 72 | Rueben Riley (6-3, 304, Sr.) |
| C | 54 | Mark Bihl (6-4, 297, Sr.) |
| RG | 67 | Matt Lentz (6-6, 305, Sr.) |
| RT | 77 | Jake Long (6-7, 338, Jr.) |
| TE | 88 | Tim Massaquoi (6-4, 248, Sr.) |
| WR | 8 | Jason Avant (6-1, 210, Sr.) |
| WR | 15 | Steve Breaston (6-1, 179, Jr.) |

DEFENSE

| | | |
|-----|----|------------------------------------|
| DE | 90 | Tim Jamison (6-3, 250, So.) |
| DT | 78 | Gabe Watson (6-4, 331, Sr.) |
| DT | 94 | Patrick Massey (6-8, 284, Sr.) |
| DE | 56 | LaMarr Woodley (6-2, 268, Jr.) |
| SLB | 6 | Prescott Burgess (6-3, 236, Jr.) |
| MLB | 36 | Scott McClintock (6-2, 246, Sr.) |
| WLB | 37 | Chris Graham (5-11, 225, So.) |
| CB | 29 | Leon Hall (5-11, 191, Jr.) |
| CB | 13 | Grant Mason (6-0, 196, Sr.) |
| FS | 21 | Ryan Mundy (6-1, 204, Jr.) |
| SS | 31 | Brantend Englemon (5-11, 199, Jr.) |

SPECIALISTS

| | | |
|----|----|-------------------------------|
| PK | 38 | Garrett Rivas (5-9, 216, Jr.) |
| P | 2 | Mark Spencer (6-0, 223, Sr.) |

RATING THE RECRUITS

1. Kevin Grady, RB
Has been compared with Earl Campbell.
2. Marques Slocum, DT
One of nation's top prospects at OG as well.
3. Antonio Bass, ATH
Outstanding physical tools; played QB as a prep.
4. Terrance Taylor, DT
Outstanding quickness for a big man.
5. Jason Forcier, QB
Will California be the next Tom Brady?

Wolverines possess full cupboard on offense, but defense must improve for Maize-and-Blue to reach national goals

Any program can over-achieve and capture a conference title once. To post 37 straight winning records and play in 30 bowls in a row is inconceivable—unless you're a Wolverine.

That amazing consistency is a blessing and a curse. It leads to can't-miss recruiting harvests and teams that should never lose more than three games. It also produces more pressure than a python when expectations aren't met.

That's what happened last season in a classic half-full, half-empty scenario. For those wearing Maize-and-Blue glasses, it was another year of great accomplishments. To everyone else, it was a blown opportunity.

Sure, Michigan shared the Big Ten title again—it's 42nd championship (six more than Iowa, Northwestern, Purdue, Michigan State, Indiana and Penn State combined).

But coach Lloyd Carr's players were 9-3 overall, 7-1 in league play, just getting by Michigan State in triple overtime and surviving a total second-half collapse against Notre Dame. They did lose to Ohio State with an outright Big Ten crown on the line and to Texas in a wild-but-winnable Rose Bowl.

The 2005 Wolverines have all the necessary people to win their second national title in Carr's 11 seasons. They also have the potential to finish fourth in the conference and out of the Top 10 and BCS. Don't be surprised if they're somewhere in the middle.

With three of the first 33 picks in the NFL Draft, more than any school except Auburn, Michigan has some rebuilding to do. But Carr has plenty of bricks available with 16 starters back—eight on offense, seven on defense and one kicker.

No team in the country has a better pair of sophomores than quarterback Chad Henne and running back Michael Hart. Neither was expected to start last season. But when injuries opened the door in September, a pair of H-bombs exploded.

Henne stepped in for Matt Gutierrez on the eve of the opener and completed exactly 20 passes per game. He was 240-for-399—60.2-percent accuracy—



JASON AVANT, WR

for 2,743 yards and 25 touchdowns. And his 12 interceptions meant a turnover every 33.3 throws.

Hart was as good as any newcomer in the nation except Oklahoma runner Adrian Peterson. He carried 282 times for a league-best 1,455 yards, a 5.2 average and nine TDs. Those numbers don't show how often he broke tackles and opponents' hearts, turning sure losses into first downs.

Granted, Michigan loses the nation's best receiver in Biletnikoff Award honoree Braylon Edwards and one of the top centers in Rimington Award co-recipient David Baas. Edwards was the No. 1 choice of the Cleveland Browns and the third selection overall. Baas, picked by the San Francisco 49ers, was the first name called in the second round.

Also gone is fullback Kevin Dudley, an outstanding lead blocker who only touched the ball eight times. But the Wolverines were second in the league with 30.8 points per game last season, and might do just as well this time.

One reason is the return of four key offensive linemen. Left tackle Adam Stenavich and right guard Matt Lentz are back for their fifth years. Both were All-Big Ten as juniors. Left guard Rueben Riley started the last seven games as a sophomore, while right tackle Jake Long started the final 10 as a redshirt freshman.

No other program could lose a player like Edwards and claim it has the nation's best receiving corps. Senior Jason Avant and junior Steve Breaston are scary wideouts with big-play potential. Fifth-year tight end Tim Massaquoi was an all-league pick, but junior Tyler Ecker might be even better at the position.

Avant has NFL hands and makes the tough catch over the middle. Injuries and Edwards' brilliance limited him to 38 grabs for 447 yards and three scores last season. Breaston, one of the most electrifying players at any level, had 34 receptions, including three for 77 yards against Texas. Massaquoi and Ecker combined for 35 catches, often at just the right times.

The Wolverines are just as deep at other spots.

Junior Mark Bihl (6-4, 297) has started three games and should replace Baas at center. Gutierrez, a junior, was the No. 1 quarterback before injuring his shoulder last August. And freshman running back Kevin Grady set nearly every Michigan high school rushing mark. Think Earl Campbell—and expect him to take at least some of Hart's carries.

Sophomore Max Martin is another threat at running back with the speed to score from anywhere on the field. If he and his teammates can't find the end zone, junior placekicker Garrett Rivas can pick up three points. He scored 13 in the Rose Bowl and had 19 field goals in 24 tries last season.

The problem comes when 37 points aren't enough to win, as Michigan learned the hard way against Texas. Jim Herrmann's defense allowed an average of 35 points against the Fighting Irish, Spartans, Buckeyes and Longhorns, ranking seventh in the league in points surrendered.

For only the second time in 125 seasons, the Wolverines failed to hold an opponent to less than 10 points. Their overall yield, 279 points, was the highest in school history—165 more than in 1997 when they shared the national championship.

Michigan will have to replace half its secondary and linebacking corps this year, including cornerback Marlin Jackson, the first-round pick of the Indianapolis Colts, and strong safety Ernest Shazor, who led the team in tackles but left school early and went undrafted.

The Wolverines' other losses aren't as well known, but each will be missed. Inside linebacker Lawrence Reid had 70 tackles, including

12 for losses and three sacks, and outside linebacker Roy Manning prevented a loss to Michigan State in the first overtime.

Back to anchor the defensive line is slimmed-down senior tackle Gabe Watson (6-4, 331), an All-Big Ten choice who can dominate a game and tie up two blockers on every play. But the team's best defender is junior end/outside linebacker LaMarr Woodley, who had 70 tackles, 16 stops for losses and three forced fumbles.

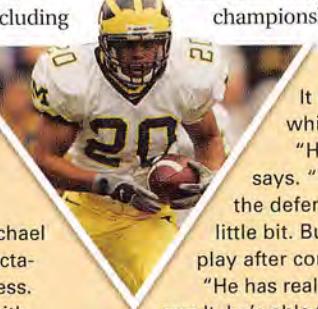
Three fifth-year players—tackle Pat Massey, inside linebacker Scott McClintock and outside linebacker Pierre Woods—give Michigan plenty of experience, having seen 37 victories.

Also back are big-play junior cornerback Leon Hall, whose hustle saved a win at Purdue, and junior free safety Ryan Mundy, a solid all-around player with an NFL future. Each had two interceptions last season.

Punter Adam Finley and kickoff specialist Troy Nienberg might be appreciated more now that they're gone. Finley averaged 43 yards per boot and Nienberg's kicks were returned for less than a 20-yard average. The big news on special teams could be a healthy Breaston, which should be good for at least one win.

Michigan opens at home against Northern Illinois, Notre Dame and Eastern Michigan, so it should be 3-0 when it visits Wisconsin and Michigan State. The Wolverines' only other trips are to Iowa and Northwestern in late October. They get Ohio State in Ann Arbor and don't play Purdue or Illinois.

Two defeats would be a disappointment for a team that is talented enough to win a national championship this season. **BETTER**



It was one of three games in which Hart eclipsed 200 yards.

"His style is very physical," Tiller says. "What I've noticed about him is the defense tends to hit him and relax a little bit. But then he just accelerates. His play after contact is exceptional."

"He has really, really strong legs and, as a result, he's able to break off defenders and shed tackles. And he has good vision."

Hart will also get some relief in the backfield from Michigan's newest freshman sensation, running back Kevin Grady, who set countless state prep records last season at East Grand Rapids High and enrolled early at Ann Arbor in January.

Though he, too, is still an underclassman, Hart has taken it upon himself to put Grady under his wing, spending a lot of time with him this spring on and off the field.

Looking at the trio that also includes sophomore Max Martin, Michigan coach Lloyd Carr told a group of reporters after a spring practice that his backfield has the potential to be "as good as we've had in quite some time," adding he may play Hart and Grady together at times.

If Grady is as good as advertised and can pick things up as quickly as Hart did last season, Michigan's running game could cause nightmares all year for opposing Big Ten defensive coordinators.

—Matt McKenzie

2004 TEAM STATS

| TEAM STATISTICS | MICHIGAN | OPP |
|-------------------------|------------|------------|
| SCORING | 370 | 279 |
| Points Per Game | 30.8 | 23.2 |
| FIRST DOWNS | 250 | 204 |
| Rushing | 110 | 81 |
| Passing | 125 | 103 |
| Penalty | 15 | 20 |
| RUSHING YARDAGE | 1843 | 1600 |
| Yards gained rushing | 2133 | 1997 |
| Yards lost rushing | 290 | 397 |
| Rushing Attempts | 481 | 440 |
| Average Per Rush | 3.8 | 3.6 |
| Average Per Game | 153.6 | 133.3 |
| TDs Rushing | 15 | 19 |
| PASSING YARDAGE | 2795 | 2435 |
| Att-Cmp-Int | 415-248-12 | 371-207-16 |
| Average Per Pass | 6.7 | 6.6 |
| Average Per Catch | 11.3 | 11.8 |
| Average Per Game | 232.9 | 202.9 |
| TDs Passing | 25 | 14 |
| TOTAL OFFENSE | 4638 | 4035 |
| Total Plays | 896 | 811 |
| Average Per Play | 5.2 | 5.0 |
| Average Per Game | 386.5 | 336.2 |
| KICK RETURNS: #-YDS | 37-911 | 52-1021 |
| PUNT RETURNS: #-YDS | 31-413 | 37-485 |
| INT RETURNS: #-YDS | 16-322 | 12-252 |
| KICK RETURN AVERAGE | 24.6 | 19.6 |
| PUNT RETURN AVERAGE | 13.3 | 13.1 |
| INT RETURN AVERAGE | 20.1 | 21.0 |
| FUMBLES-LOST | 16-9 | 26-11 |
| PENALTIES-YARDS | 62-547 | 79-583 |
| Average Per Game | 45.6 | 48.6 |
| PUNTS-YARDS | 66-2757 | 75-3074 |
| Average Per Punt | 41.8 | 41.0 |
| Net punt average | 34.4 | 35.5 |
| TIME OF POSSESSION/GAME | 31:32 | 28:28 |
| 3RD-DOWN CONV. | 84/194 | 65/186 |
| 3rd-Down Pct | 43% | 35% |
| 4TH-DOWN CONV. | 6/12 | 7/16 |
| 4th-Down Pct | 50% | 44% |
| SACKS BY-YARDS | 21-146 | 29-193 |
| MISC YARDS | 5 | 16 |
| TOUCHDOWNS SCORED | 45 | 34 |
| FIELD GOALS-ATTEMPTS | 19-24 | 13-19 |
| PAT-ATTEMPTS | 37-41 | 34-34 |
| ATTENDANCE | 666149 | 342147 |
| Games/Avg Per Game | 6/111025 | 5/68429 |
| Neutral Site Games | 1/93468 | |

| SCORE BY QTRS | 1st | 2nd | 3rd | 4th | OT | Total |
|---------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|-------|
| Michigan | 78 | 70 | 105 | 99 | 18 | 370 |
| Opponent | 66 | 64 | 55 | 84 | 10 | 279 |

2004 INDIVIDUAL STATS

OFFENSE

PASSING

| | | | | | | | |
|------------|----|--------|-------------|------|------|----|-------|
| Chad Henne | GP | Effic. | Att-Cmp-Int | Pct. | Yds. | TD | Avg/G |
| | 12 | 132.56 | 399-240-12 | 60.2 | 2743 | 25 | 228.6 |

Clayton Richard

| | | | | | | | |
|-----------------|----|--------|-------------|------|------|----|-------|
| Clayton Richard | GP | Effic. | Att-Cmp-Int | Pct. | Yds. | TD | Avg/G |
| | 5 | 82.45 | 15-8-0 | 53.3 | 52 | 0 | 10.4 |

Spencer Brinton

| | | | | | | | |
|-----------------|----|--------|-------------|------|------|----|-------|
| Spencer Brinton | GP | Effic. | Att-Cmp-Int | Pct. | Yds. | TD | Avg/G |
| | 2 | 0.00 | 1-0-0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0.0 |

RUSHING

| | | | | | | |
|-----------|----|------|----------|-----|-------|-------|
| Mike Hart | GP | Att. | Net Avg. | TD | Avg/G | |
| | 12 | 282 | 1455 | 5.2 | 9 | 121.2 |

Max Martin

| | | | | | | |
|------------|----|------|----------|-----|-------|------|
| Max Martin | GP | Att. | Net Avg. | TD | Avg/G | |
| | 8 | 32 | 132 | 4.1 | 1 | 16.5 |

David Underwood

| | | | | | | |
|-----------------|----|------|----------|-----|-------|------|
| David Underwood | GP | Att. | Net Avg. | TD | Avg/G | |
| | 4 | 29 | 129 | 4.4 | 2 | 32.2 |

RECEIVING

| | | | | | | |
|-----------------|----|-----|------|------|----|-------|
| Braylon Edwards | GP | No. | Yds. | Avg. | TD | Avg/G |
| | 12 | 97 | 1330 | 13.7 | 15 | 110.8 |

Jason Avant

| | | | | | | |
|-------------|----|-----|------|------|----|-------|
| Jason Avant | GP | No. | Yds. | Avg. | TD | Avg/G |
| | 11 | 38 | 447 | 11.8 | 3 | 40.6 |

Steve Breaston

| | | | | | | |
|----------------|----|-----|------|------|----|-------|
| Steve Breaston | GP | No. | Yds. | Avg. | TD | Avg/G |
| | 11 | 34 | 291 | 8.6 | 3 | 26.5 |

DEFENSE

TACKLES

| | | | | |
|---------------|----|------|------|-------|
| Ernest Shazor | GP | Solo | Ast. | Total |
| | 12 | 60 | 24 | 84 |

LaMarr Woodley

| | | | | |
|----------------|----|------|------|-------|
| LaMarr Woodley | GP | Solo | Ast. | Total |
| | 12 | 49 | 21 | 70 |

Lawrence Reid

| | | | | |
|---------------|----|------|------|-------|
| Lawrence Reid | GP | Solo | Ast. | Total |
| | 12 | 47 | 23 | 70 |

SACKS

| | | | |
|----------------|----|-----|------|
| Patrick Massey | GP | No. | Yds. |
| | 12 | 5 | 38 |

LaMarr Woodley

| | | | |
|----------------|----|-----|------|
| LaMarr Woodley | GP | No. | Yds. |
| | 12 | 4 | 40 |

Lawrence Reid

| | | | |
|---------------|----|-----|------|
| Lawrence Reid | GP | No. | Yds. |
| | 12 | 3 | 24 |

INTERCEPTIONS

| | | | | | |
|--------------|----|-----|------|------|----|
| Markus Curry | GP | No. | Yds. | Avg. | TD |
| | 3 | 51 | 17.0 | 0 | 0 |

Ryan Mundy

| | | | | | |
|------------|----|-----|------|------|----|
| Ryan Mundy | GP | No. | Yds. | Avg. | TD |
| | 2 | 38 | 19.0 | 0 | 0 |

Ernest Shazor

| | | | | | |
|---------------|----|-----|------|------|----|
| Ernest Shazor | GP | No. | Yds. | Avg. | TD |
| | 2 | 92 | 46.0 | 1 | 1 |

PURDUE BOILERMAKERS

2004 Record: 7-5 overall, 4-4 Big Ten (lost to Arizona State in the Sun Bowl, 27-23)
Stadium: Ross-Ade Stadium
Official athletic Web site: www.purduesports.com

Turf: Grass

Capacity: 62,500

PRESEASON RANK:

FIVE-YEAR WINS TREND

2

8 6 7 9 7

2000 2001 2002 2003 2004



Head coach: Joe Tiller, 9th Year (62-37) **Career Record:** 101-67-1
Assistant coaches: Jim Chaney (off. coord./TEs), Brock Spack (def. coord./LBs), Mark Hagen (asst. head coach/def. tackles/special teams), Lou Anarumo (def. backs), Blaine Bennett (QBs), Bob DeBesse (WRs/recruiting coord.), Bill Legg (off. line), David Mitchell (RBs), Tony Samuel (def. ends)

CHARLES DAVIS, TE

2005 SCHEDULE

| DATE | OPPONENT | '04 RESULT |
|-------|----------------|------------|
| S. 10 | Akron | |
| S. 17 | @ARIZONA | |
| S. 24 | @MINNESOTA | |
| O. 1 | Notre Dame | 41-16 |
| O. 8 | Iowa | 21-23 |
| O. 15 | Northwestern | 10-13 |
| O. 22 | @WISCONSIN | 17-20 |
| O. 29 | @PENN STATE | 20-13 |
| N. 5 | Michigan State | |
| N. 12 | Illinois | 38-30 |
| N. 19 | @INDIANA | 63-24 |

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 20
 Lettermen returning/lost: 41/11

OFFENSE

| | |
|----|-----------------------------------|
| QB | 11 Brandon Kirsch (6-3, 208, Jr.) |
| RB | 32 Jerod Void (6-2, 212, Sr.) |
| LT | 65 Mike Otto (6-5, 292, Jr.) |
| LG | 67 Uche Nwaneri (6-3, 313, Jr.) |
| C | 56 Matt Turner (6-3, 290, Sr.) |
| RG | 66 Jordan Grimes (6-3, 313, So.) |
| RT | 74 Sean Sester (6-8, 282, r-Fr.) |
| TE | 87 Charles Davis (6-6, 260, Sr.) |
| WR | 2 Ray Williams (6-2, 193, Sr.) |
| WR | 9 Dorien Bryant (5-10, 175, So.) |
| WR | 89 Kyle Ingraham (6-9, 228, Jr.) |

DEFENSE

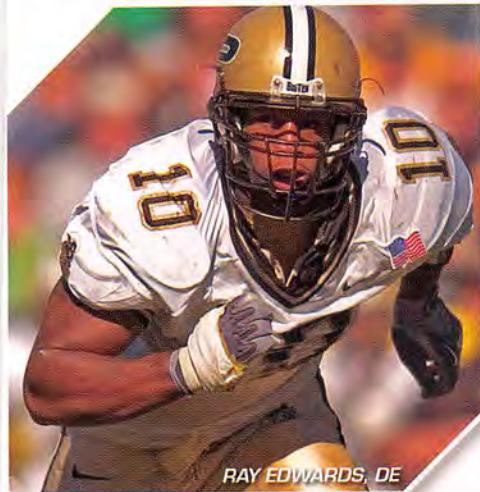
| | |
|-----|---------------------------------------|
| DE | 49 Anthony Spencer (6-3, 263, Jr.) |
| DT | 55 Brandon Villarreal (6-2, 289, Sr.) |
| DT | 58 Brent Grover (6-3, 303, Sr.) |
| DE | 10 Ray Edwards (6-6, 270, Jr.) |
| SLB | 85 Cliff Avril (6-3, 231, So.) |
| MLB | 30 George Hall (6-2, 250, Jr.) |
| WLB | 59 Stanford Keglar (6-2, 227, So.) |
| CB | 25 Paul Long (6-2, 193, So.) |
| CB | 33 Brian Hickman (6-0, 178, Sr.) |
| FS | 13 Torri Williams (6-2, 200, So.) |
| SS | 31 Bernard Pollard (6-2, 226, Jr.) |

SPECIALISTS

| | |
|----|--------------------------------|
| PK | 35 Ben Jones (6-1, 213, Sr.) |
| P | 16 Dave Brytus (6-4, 227, So.) |

RATING THE RECRUITS

| |
|--|
| 1. Selwyn Lymon, WR |
| 2. U.S. Army All-American is 6-4 and runs a 4.4 40. |
| 3. Greg Orton, WR |
| 4. Joins Lymon in Tiller's best set of incoming WRs. |
| 5. Eric Hedstrom, OL |
| Kept his word to Purdue when Illini changed staff. |
| 6. Jason Kacinko, OL |
| Pennsylvanian said no to Wannstedt and Pitt. |
| 7. Derek Benson, ATH |
| Prep-school prospect has speed, leaping ability. |



RAY EDWARDS, DE

Junior Ray Edwards and senior Ray Ninkovich tied for second in the league with eight sacks last season. But Ninkovich is listed as a backup behind Edwards at right end opposite junior Anthony Spencer, who had 7.5 sacks and three forced fumbles.

Fifth-year tackles Brandon Villarreal and Brent Grover have been there for four of the Boilermakers' eight straight bowl games in the Tiller era. Villarreal was third in the conference with 17.5 tackles for loss as a junior. Grover has started 34 games.

Sophomore Stanford Keglar is solid at weakside linebacker. And last year's strongside starter, Bobby Iwuchukwu, will have to hold off sophomore Cliff Avril to keep his job in his fifth season.

That depth is just as evident in the secondary. Fifth-year man Brian Hickman

and sophomore Paul Long are back at cornerback, while sophomore Torri Williams could drop last year's starting free safety, fifth-year player Kyle Smith, to second string.

If Purdue has a weakness, it's that its special teams don't stack up with the best in the conference. On the scale of potential problems, though, that deficiency is merely a mosquito bite.

Fifth-year placekicker Ben Jones fell to 55.6-percent field goal accuracy (10-for-18). Sophomore punter Dave Brytus averaged 40 yards per kick, ninth best in the Big Ten. And the punt returners ranked last in the league with a paltry 5.2 yards per runback.

That's a cause for concern, not a crisis or a controversy in western Indiana, where Ross-Ade Stadium has replaced Mackey Arena as the place to be for Boilermakers fans.

Purdue starts a week later than most teams and doesn't have a bye week after Sept. 10. With Akron, Notre Dame, Iowa, Northwestern, Michigan State and Illinois visiting, the home schedule isn't that scary. And with trips to Arizona, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Penn State and Indiana, a banner year seems likely.

If the Boilermakers roll through their schedule unbeaten or with only one loss, that feat would raise an interesting question: Can a team be a legitimate Big Ten champ without facing the Wolverines or Buckeyes? If there was ever an argument for a full 10-game, round-robin schedule, a Purdue title this fall could provide it.

The Boilermakers were 0-4 against ranked opponents last season and need to prove they can beat a quality team away from home to gain the respect they deserve. Their first opportunity could come in January at Pasadena. **MTB**

IN PROFILE ...

BRANDON KIRSCH

Kirsch confident his abilities can fill Orton's shoes as new Boiler QB

First off, Brandon Kirsch is no Kyle Orton, and the new Purdue quarterback is quick to tell you that. But that doesn't bother the fourth-year junior, who is ready to establish a name for himself in the Big Ten.

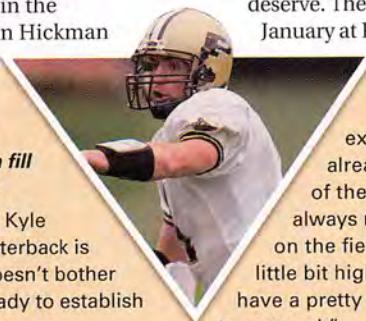
With the record-setting Orton off to enjoy the NFL life, the starting job falls on Kirsch, something he says he's been waiting on for quite some time.

"It's more of a welcoming in, so I'm not really nervous," Kirsch says. "But I definitely have to step it up [this season]."

The Boilermakers' offense is nothing new to Kirsch, who has six starts under his belt, dating all the way back to his freshman year. Last season, he came on to replace the injured Orton in two games and finished the 2004 campaign with seven touchdowns and three interceptions. He also started four games as a true freshman, but had to redshirt a year later after injuring his throwing shoulder.

"I think it's very valuable ... having to start in big [games]," he says. "So [this year] won't be a shock. I won't be nervous."

Purdue coach Joe Tiller says he enjoys the fact Kirsch isn't coming in as a wide-eyed freshman or a transfer, adding that having experience in the Purdue system will be to his advantage.



"We expect him to obviously execute the offense because he already has a good understanding of the system," Tiller says. "It's always more comforting to put someone on the field whose predictability is a little bit higher, meaning coach-wise, you have a pretty good feeling of how he's going to respond."

Tiller says Kirsch is comfortable enough with his own abilities not to worry about the pressure of filling Orton's big shoes.

"He's a guy who feels like he was ready to play, even the year he redshirted," Tiller says. "He's not a guy who I think is a timid person. I don't think he spends an ounce of time worrying about who he's replacing. The more confident a guy is, the less he thinks about who he's replacing or how he is going to be judged."

And while Orton relied on his strong arm, Kirsch can beat you in the air or on the ground. That was evident in Purdue's first spring scrimmage, when Kirsch led the team in rushing with 77 yards, adding a touchdown.

"People are going to have their opinions about everything comparing me and Kyle," Kirsch says. "But we're two different quarterbacks who play two different types of ways. I'm just going to go out there 100 percent and win games."

—Matt McKenzie

2004 TEAM STATS

| TEAM STATISTICS | PURDUE | OPP |
|-----------------------|-----------|-----------|
| SCORING | 381 | 206 |
| Points Per Game | 31.8 | 17.2 |
| FIRST DOWNS | 280 | 219 |
| Rushing | 89 | 73 |
| Passing | 170 | 129 |
| Penalty | 21 | 17 |
| RUSHING YARDAGE | 1504 | 1264 |
| Yards gained rushing | 1807 | 1658 |
| Yards lost rushing | 303 | 394 |
| Rushing Attempts | 424 | 405 |
| Average Per Rush | 3.5 | 3.1 |
| Average Per Game | 125.3 | 105.3 |
| TDs Rushing | 11 | 6 |
| PASSING YARDAGE | 3854 | 2879 |
| Att-Cmp-Int | 486-297-8 | 434-241-8 |
| Average Per Pass | 7.9 | 6.6 |
| Average Per Catch | 13.0 | 11.9 |
| Average Per Game | 321.2 | 239.9 |
| TDs Passing | 38 | 15 |
| TOTAL OFFENSE | 5358 | 4143 |
| Total Plays | 910 | 839 |
| Average Per Play | 5.9 | 4.9 |
| Average Per Game | 446.5 | 345.2 |
| KICK RETURNS: #-YDS | 31-772 | 49-1024 |
| PUNT RETURNS: #-YDS | 32-167 | 21-158 |
| INT RETURNS: #-YDS | 8-101 | 8-93 |
| KICK RETURN AVERAGE | 24.9 | 20.9 |
| PUNT RETURN AVERAGE | 5.2 | 7.5 |
| INT RETURN AVERAGE | 12.6 | 11.6 |
| FUMBLES-LOST | 22-10 | 19-7 |
| PENALTIES-YARDS | 71-618 | 87-689 |
| Average Per Game | 51.5 | 57.4 |
| PUNTS-YARDS | 61-2345 | 77-3149 |
| Average Per Punt | 38.4 | 40.9 |
| Net punt average | 35.9 | 38.7 |
| TIME OF POSSESS./GAME | 30:12 | 29:48 |
| 3RD-DOWN CONV. | 92/189 | 66/192 |
| 3rd-Down Pct | 49% | 34% |
| 4TH-DOWN CONV. | 7/12 | 4/13 |
| 4th-Down Pct | 58% | 31% |
| SACKS BY-YARDS | 35-228 | 31-207 |
| MISC YARDS | 4 | 114 |
| TOUCHDOWNS SCORED | 50 | 23 |
| FIELD GOALS-ATTEMPTS | 10-18 | 16-28 |
| PAT-ATTEMPTS | 49-50 | 20-22 |
| ATTENDANCE | 381292 | 340219 |
| Games/Avg Per Game | 6/63549 | 5/68044 |
| Neutral Site Games | | 1/51288 |

| SCORE BY QTRS | 1st | 2nd | 3rd | 4th | OT | Total |
|---------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|-------|
| Purdue | 99 | 105 | 94 | 83 | — | 381 |
| Opponents | 53 | 37 | 43 | 73 | — | 206 |

2004 INDIVIDUAL STATS OFFENSE

PASSING

| | | | | | | | |
|------------|--------|-----------|-------------|------|------|-------|-------|
| Kyle Orton | GP | Effic. | Att-Cmp-Int | Pct. | Yds. | TD | Avg/G |
| 11 | 151.12 | 389-236-5 | 60.7 | 3090 | 31 | 280.9 | |

Brandon Kirsch

| | | | | | | | |
|----------------|--------|---------|-------------|------|------|-------|-------|
| Brandon Kirsch | GP | Effic. | Att-Cmp-Int | Pct. | Yds. | TD | Avg/G |
| 6 | 143.43 | 94-58-3 | 61.7 | 711 | 7 | 118.5 | |

RUSHING

| | | | | | |
|---------------|-----|------|----------|----|-------|
| Jerod Void | GP | Att. | Net Avg. | TD | Avg/G |
| 12 | 159 | 625 | 3.9 | 3 | 52.1 |
| Brandon Jones | GP | Att. | Net Avg. | TD | Avg/G |
| 12 | 113 | 477 | 4.2 | 2 | 39.8 |

Kyle Orton

| | | | | |
|------------|----|-----|------|-------|
| Kyle Orton | GP | No. | Yds. | Avg/G |
| 11 | 80 | 112 | 1.4 | 3 |

RECEIVING

| | | | | |
|-----------------|----|------|------|-------|
| T. Stubblefield | GP | No. | Yds. | Avg/G |
| 12 | 89 | 1095 | 12.3 | 91.2 |
| Kyle Ingraham | GP | No. | Yds. | Avg/G |
| 12 | 51 | 624 | 12.2 | 52.0 |

Dorien Bryant

| | | | | |
|---------------|----|-----|------|-------|
| Dorien Bryant | GP | No. | Yds. | Avg/G |
| 12 | 38 | 584 | 15.4 | 48.7 |

DEFENSE

| TACKLES | GP | Solo | Ast. | Total |
|-----------------|----|------|------|-------|
| Bernard Pollard | 12 | 58 | 38 | 96 |
| George Hall | 12 | 53 | 39 | 92 |
| Kyle Smith | 12 | 46 | 30 | 76 |

SACKS

| | | | |
|---------------|----|-----|------|
| Ray Edwards | GP | No. | Yds. |
| 12 | 80 | 8.0 | 56 |
| Rob Ninkovich | GP | No. | Yds. |
| 12 | 80 | 8.0 | 48 |

Anthony Spencer

| | | | |
|-----------------|-----|-----|------|
| Anthony Spencer | GP | No. | Yds. |
| 12 | 7.5 | 7.5 | 55 |

INTERCEPTIONS

| INTERCEPTIONS | GP | No. | Yds. | Avg. | TD |
|---------------|----|------|------|------|----|
| George Hall | GP | No. | Yds. | Avg. | TD |
| 1 | 44 | 22.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Kyle Smith | GP | No. | Yds. | Avg. | TD |
| 1 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

Bernard Pollard

| | | | |
|-----------------|----|------|------|
| Bernard Pollard | GP | No. | Yds. |
| 1 | 19 | 19.0 | 0 |



OHIO STATE

BUCKEYES

2004 Record: 8-4 overall, 4-4 Big Ten (beat Oklahoma State in the Alamo Bowl, 33-7)

Stadium: Ohio Stadium

Turf: Grass

Official athletic Web site: www.ohiostatebuckeyes.com

Capacity: 101,568

PRESEASON RANK:

FIVE-YEAR WINS TREND

3

8 7 14 11 8

2000 2001 2002 2003 2004

TED GINN, WR

2005 SCHEDULE

| DATE | OPPONENT | '04 RESULT |
|-------|-----------------|------------|
| S. 3 | Miami (OH) | |
| S. 10 | Texas | |
| S. 17 | San Diego State | |
| S. 24 | Iowa | 7-33 |
| O. 8 | @PENN STATE | 21-10 |
| O. 15 | Michigan State | 32-19 |
| O. 22 | @INDIANA | 30-7 |
| O. 29 | @MINNESOTA | |
| N. 5 | Illinois | |
| N. 12 | Northwestern | 27-33 (OT) |
| N. 19 | @MICHIGAN | 37-21 |

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 18

Lettermen returning/lost: 47/23

OFFENSE

| | |
|----|---------------------------------------|
| QB | 10 Troy Smith (6-1, 215, Jr.) |
| FB | 43 Brandon Schnittker (6-2, 250, Jr.) |
| TB | 25 Antonio Pittman (5-11, 190, So.) |
| LT | 77 Rob Sims (6-4, 310, Sr.) |
| LG | 72 T.J. Downing (6-5, 305, Jr.) |
| C | 55 Nick Mangold (6-4, 390, Sr.) |
| RG | 50 Doug Datish (6-5, 295, Jr.) |
| RT | 74 Kirk Barton (6-6, 305, So.) |
| TE | 80 Ryan Hamby (6-5, 250, Sr.) |
| FL | 7 Ted Ginn (6-0, 170, So.) |
| SE | 4 Santonio Holmes (5-11, 185, Jr.) |

DEFENSE

| | |
|-----|-------------------------------------|
| DE | 99 Jay Richardson (6-6, 270, Jr.) |
| DT | 94 Marcus Green (6-3, 290, Sr.) |
| DT | 90 Quinn Pitcock (6-3, 295, Jr.) |
| DE | 57 Mike Kudla (6-3, 265, Sr.) |
| SLB | 42 Bobby Carpenter (6-3, 255, Sr.) |
| MLB | 51 Anthony Schlegel (6-2, 245, Sr.) |
| WLB | 47 A.J. Hawk (6-1, 238, Sr.) |
| LCB | 26 Ashton Youboty (6-1, 188, Jr.) |
| RCB | 6 Tyler Everett (5-11, 196, Sr.) |
| FS | 21 Nate Salley (6-3, 215, Sr.) |
| SS | 9 Donte Whitner (5-11, 200, Jr.) |

SPECIALISTS

| | |
|----|------------------------------------|
| PK | 23 Josh Huston (6-1, 195, Sr.) |
| P | 15 A.J. Trapasso (6-1, 220, r-Fr.) |

RATING THE RECRUITS

1. Alex Boone, OT
No. 3 tackle in nation in most prep rankings.
2. Jamario O'Neal, WR/CB
One service had him as country's No. 3 corner.
3. Maurice Wells, RB
Led Florida's prep rushers with 3,076 yards in '04.
4. Doug Worthington, TE/DE
Parade All-American and No. 2 player in N.Y.
5. Jim Cordle, G
Ohio's No. 2 blocker behind Boone; enrolled early.



Head coach: Jim Tressel, 5th Year (40-11) Career Record: 175-68-2

Assistant coaches: Jim Bollman (off. coord./off. line), Joe Daniels (passing game coord./QBs), Darrell Hazell (asst. head coach/WRs), John Peterson (recruiting coord./TEs), Dick Tressel (RBs), Jim Heacock (def. line), Luke Fickell (LBs), Tim Beckman (CBs), Paul Haynes (def. backs)

Buckeyes anxious to see how far two of college football's biggest stars—A.J. Hawk and Ted Ginn—can take them

The Buckeyes were never a contender in 2004, dropping their first three conference games and being relegated to the spoiler's role. But there was no sweeter way to finish 4-4 in the Big Ten than to blast Michigan by 16 points in Columbus and cost the Wolverines an outright title.

A 33-7 romp over Oklahoma State in the Alamo Bowl left no doubt which OSU ruled San Antonio. Instead, it left fans wondering if an 8-4 mark should have been better and if instant messiah Jim Tressel, just two years removed from a national championship, was human after all.

Yes, Tressel made it three wins in four tries against the hated Wolverines—one more than predecessor John Cooper managed in the only game that mattered to Scarlet-and-Gray zealots in 13 otherwise-successful seasons.

But an overtime upset at Northwestern, a whipping at home by Wisconsin, a lopsided loss at Iowa and a setback at Purdue were tough to stomach. A team that was ranked seventh in the nation on Sept. 27 didn't receive a single vote from pollsters six weeks later.

That will change this year, especially if the Buckeyes can beat Texas Sept. 10 in Ohio Stadium. A win there and another against visiting Iowa two weeks later could keep Tressel's team unbeaten until it travels to Michigan.

That wouldn't be the biggest shock in Big Ten history. Ohio State returns 18 starters, nine on each side of the ball. Best of all, it might have the Big Ten's No. 1 gamebreaker in flanker/kick returner Ted Ginn and the league's best defender in weakside linebacker A.J. Hawk.

Ginn is a blur with Heisman Trophy tools. He beat Michigan State single-handedly as a freshman last year, scoring on a reverse, a punt return and the game-winning reception. He also led the nation in punt returns with a 25.6-yard average and set a conference mark with four runbacks for TDs.

Hawk enters his final season with Butkus Award ability and intensity. He was second in the conference in 2004 with 141 tackles and seemed to know where the ball was headed before every snap. Hawk also made one of the year's best interceptions.

Ohio State's other stars include senior strong-side linebacker Bobby Carpenter and junior cornerback Ashton Youboty. Carpenter was

second on the team with 93 tackles and three interceptions. Youboty, the best cover corner in the league, had four picks and 18 pass breakups, as many as any player in the Big Ten.

Those efforts weren't enough to save a team that was eighth in total offense at just 320.8 yards per game, 11.2 yards fewer than it allowed. And subtracting Ginn's returns, the Buckeyes saw the end zone less than any Big Ten team but Penn State.

Ohio State did come alive after a quarterback change, winning four of its last five regular-season games after slippery Troy Smith replaced fellow junior Justin Zwick. Tressel's team finally remembered it was legal to score more than 27 points and put 30 or more on the board four times in the last six games.

Smith hit on 68 of 122 passes (55.7 percent) for 896 yards and eight scores, with three interceptions. He also ran for 339 yards, a 4.1 average. But he saved his best for last, completing 13 of 23 throws for 241 yards and rushing for 145 more against the Wolverines.

When Smith was suspended from the bowl game for accepting a booster's gift, Zwick stepped in and was 17-for-27 for 189 yards through the air. In seven starts, Zwick was 98-for-187 (52.4 percent) for 1,209 yards and six TDs. He also threw six interceptions.

Smith and Zwick could be pushed, if not passed eventually, by 6-5 redshirt freshman Todd Boeckman. The guess here is Smith will start. But whoever wins the job will throw to excellent targets.

Junior split end Santonio Holmes caught 55 passes (30 more than Ginn) for 769 yards and seven scores. Ginn, who didn't play much offense for the first two-thirds of last season, can change a game in an eye-blink. And backup wideouts Roy Hall and Anthony Gonzalez add size and explosiveness, respectively.

The offensive line returns four of five starters: senior center Nick Mangold, junior right guard Doug Datish, senior left tackle Rob Sims and sophomore right tackle Kirk Barton. Junior T.J. Downing should replace Mike Kne at left guard.

Two other blockers, fifth-year tight end Ryan Hamby and junior fullback Brandon Schnittker, are back to open holes for the tailback. That should be sophomore Antonio Pittman, who ran for 381 yards and a 5.1-yard average last year,



or redshirt freshman Eric Haw, a scout-team standout in 2004.

One or both will replace Lydell Ross, whose 475 yards on the ground was the lowest total for an Ohio State rushing leader since 1987. Ross ran for only four TDs last season, one less than past greats Pete Johnson and Keith Byars had in a game.

The Buckeyes return three starting defensive linemen, all three linebackers and three-fourths of their secondary. Hawk, Carpenter and Youboty got the headlines, but six other starters helped Ohio State allow only 18.2 points per game.

Fifth-year veteran Marcus Green and junior Quinn Pitcock are back at tackle, as is senior Mike Kudla at end. Anthony Schlegel will have to hold off fellow senior Mike D'Andrea at middle linebacker, while Nate Salley and Tyler Everett are set at free safety and right corner, respectively.

Juniors Jay Richardson and David Patterson will try to replace defensive end Simon Fraser. Junior Donte Whitner, who split time at safety last year, should take over at strong safety. And Luke Fickell and Jim Heacock will share the coordinator's role after Mark Snyder left to become the head coach at Marshall.

IN PROFILE ... A.J. HAWK

OSU's ball Hawk wants Buckeye defense to return to its days of dominance

It really wasn't too difficult for A.J. Hawk to decide whether he was going to return to Ohio State for his senior season. All he had to do was simply take in his surroundings on the Columbus campus.

"I wanted to soak all this up," Hawk says about his final season at Ohio State. "I can't believe I'm already a senior, so I really want to enjoy it."

An All-America choice last year, Hawk had plenty of incentive to declare early for the NFL Draft, especially after finishing second in the Big Ten and fifth in the nation for tackles per game (11.8).

But with nine starters returning on defense and offense, Hawk says he believes there is an opportunity for Ohio State to capture its second national title in his career.

"There's a lot of talent in the people we have coming back," Hawk says. "There's a lot of potential to win a national championship. So that's the biggest reason why I came back. Of course, getting there [to the BCS title game] my freshman year gave me a little taste, but now I have a chance to be around some great players."

Another title would be a great way for Hawk to close his career at Ohio State, a team he followed and dreamed of playing for while growing up in Centerville, Ohio. But during his senior year at Centerville High, Hawk suffered an injury that kept him off the field for a majority of the season and caused him to lose some speed.

However, he was quickly pushing for playing time during his freshman season and became a full-time starter the next year, being selected to the All-Big Ten first team in the process.

"I came in with a great class, and when you come into a place as big as Ohio State, it's hard to make a name for yourself until you get here,"

The biggest loss might be placekicker Mike Nugent, a second-round pick of the New York Jets and the first kicking specialist drafted. Nugent, the school's all-time leading scorer, had 24 field goals in 27 tries last season. Sixth-year senior Josh Huston, granted a medical-hardship year in April, has been waiting patiently with his kicking tee.

Punter Kyle Turano is also gone after the Buckeyes led the league in net punting at 39.2 yards per boot. Redshirt freshman A.J. Trapasso could inherit that job. Whoever is taking the long snaps from center, at least he won't have to kick to Ginn.

Ohio State's schedule is as friendly as Michigan's but not nearly as favorable as Purdue's. Miami (Ohio) comes to Columbus before Texas, San Diego State and Iowa visit. With four home games and a bye week, the Buckeyes won't wear white jerseys until Oct. 8 when they play at Penn State.

Michigan State, Illinois and Northwestern will be in Ohio Stadium, too. The other road tests are at Indiana, Minnesota and, of course, Michigan. If the

Buckeyes win in Ann Arbor again, construction of a new Tressel statue should begin by Thanksgiving at the latest. **B1B**

Hawk says, "And until I got here, I never realized how important it was to be a part of this team. You grow up thinking, 'No way I can play for them, but then you are.'"

During his junior season, Hawk recorded 141 tackles (including a career-high 20 against Wisconsin), the most by a Buckeye since former OSU linebacker great Chris Spielman in 1986. He comes into his senior year as a candidate for some of the nation's top defensive awards, including the Butkus, Lombardi and Lott trophies.

Hawk says for Ohio State to be a national-title contender, the defense must get back to its dominating ways of a couple of years ago.

"I remember following [the team] growing up, and we're trying to be *that* Ohio State defense," he says. "The last couple of years we haven't had that. It's not really been any one thing; we've just had trouble getting off the field on third down. And that's tough to sustain all game."

"But with the seniors we've got coming back, and even with the young guys, it will allow us to be aggressive."

And after the season is over, the NFL awaits. But that doesn't mean scouts aren't already talking about Hawk, especially after what took place in March.

During Ohio State's Pro Day, where scouts come to campus to put mostly seniors through various workouts and drills, Hawk was selected as one of the few underclassmen to participate.

All of the talk about Hawk being a step slow quickly went out the window when he ran the 40-yard dash in 4.5 seconds. He said he was happy about the impression left on scouts, but it didn't make him rethink the decision to stay.

"All that did was give me a little hope," he says. "I just wanted to make a name for myself. Of course, it made me feel better. Once you run a pretty good time, obviously I think that gives you more confidence heading into another year. I just need to make sure I run that well next year."

—Matt McKenzie

2004 TEAM STATS

| TEAM STATISTICS | OHIO STATE | OPP |
|----------------------|------------|------------|
| SCORING | 290 | 219 |
| Points Per Game | 24.2 | 18.2 |
| FIRST DOWNS | 186 | 226 |
| Rushing | 79 | 94 |
| Passing | 94 | 118 |
| Penalty | 13 | 14 |
| RUSHING YARDAGE | 1745 | 1565 |
| Yards gained rushing | 1989 | 1837 |
| Yards lost rushing | 244 | 272 |
| Rushing Attempts | 441 | 444 |
| Average Per Rush | 4.0 | 3.5 |
| Average Per Game | 145.4 | 130.4 |
| TDs Rushing | 11 | 10 |
| PASSING YARDAGE | 2105 | 2419 |
| Att-Cmp-Int | 310-166-9 | 430-240-15 |
| Average Per Pass | 6.8 | 5.6 |
| Average Per Catch | 12.7 | 10.1 |
| Average Per Game | 175.4 | 201.6 |
| TDs Passing | 14 | 15 |
| TOTAL OFFENSE | 3850 | 3984 |
| Total Plays | 751 | 874 |
| Average Per Play | 5.1 | 4.6 |
| Average Per Game | 320.8 | 332.0 |
| KICK RETURNS: #-YDS | 31-735 | 22-450 |
| PUNT RETURNS: #-YDS | 37-602 | 28-207 |
| INT RETURNS: #-YDS | 15-164 | 9-42 |
| KICK RETURN AVERAGE | 23.7 | 20.5 |
| PUNT RETURN AVERAGE | 16.3 | 7.4 |
| INT RETURN AVERAGE | 10.9 | 4.7 |
| FUMBLES-LOST | 22-14 | 13-4 |
| PENALTIES-YARDS | 71-537 | 72-548 |
| Average Per Game | 44.8 | 45.7 |
| PUNTS-YARDS | 67-2836 | 80-3455 |
| Average Per Punt | 42.3 | 43.2 |
| Net punt average | 39.2 | 35.7 |
| TIME OF POSS./GAME | 29:34 | 30:26 |
| 3RD-DOWN CONV. | 63/171 | 76/198 |
| 3rd-Down Pct | 37% | 38% |
| 4TH-DOWN CONV. | 2/5 | 6/17 |
| 4th-Down Pct | 40% | 35% |
| SACKS BY-YARDS | 24-153 | 23-135 |
| MISC YARDS | 5 | 47 |
| TOUCHDOWNS SCORED | 31 | 26 |
| FIELD GOALS-ATTEMPTS | 24-27 | 13-17 |
| PAT-ATTEMPTS | 30-30 | 24-25 |
| ATTENDANCE | 629257 | 311188 |
| Games/Avg Per Game | 6/104876 | 5/62238 |
| Neutral Site Games | | 1/65265 |

| SCORE BY QTRS | 1st | 2nd | 3rd | 4th | OT | Total |
|---------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|-------|
| Ohio State | 95 | 76 | 51 | 68 | 0 | 290 |
| Opponents | 41 | 71 | 37 | 64 | 6 | 219 |

2004 INDIVIDUAL STATS OFFENSE

PASSING

| | | | | | | | |
|--------------|----|--------|-------------|------|------|----|-------|
| Justin Zwick | GP | Effic. | Att-Cmp-Int | Pct. | Yds. | TD | Avg/G |
| | 7 | 110.89 | 187-98-6 | 52.4 | 1209 | 6 | 172.7 |

TROY SMITH

| | | | | | | | |
|------------|----|--------|-------------|------|------|----|-------|
| Troy Smith | GP | Effic. | Att-Cmp-Int | Pct. | Yds. | TD | Avg/G |
| | 8 | 134.15 | 122-68-3 | 55.7 | 896 | 8 | 112.0 |

RUSHING

| | | | | | |
|-------------|----|------|----------|-----|-------|
| Lydell Ross | GP | Att. | Net Avg. | TD | Avg/G |
| | 9 | 117 | 475 | 4.1 | 52.8 |

ANTONIO PITTMAN

| | | | | | |
|-----------------|----|------|----------|-----|-------|
| Antonio Pittman | GP | Att. | Net Avg. | TD | Avg/G |
| | 11 | 72 | 381 | 5.3 | 34.6 |

TROY SMITH

| | | | | | |
|------------|----|------|----------|-----|-------|
| Troy Smith | GP | Att. | Net Avg. | TD | Avg/G |
| | 8 | 82 | 339 | 4.1 | 42.4 |

RECEIVING

| | | | | | | |
|-----------------|----|-----|------|------|----|-------|
| Santonio Holmes | GP | No. | Yds. | Avg. | TD | Avg/G |
| | 12 | 55 | 769 | 14.0 | 7 | 64.1 |

TED GINN JR.

| | | | | | | |
|--------------|----|-----|------|------|----|-------|
| Ted Ginn Jr. | GP | No. | Yds. | Avg. | TD | Avg/G |
| | 12 | 25 | 359 | 14.4 | 2 | 29.9 |

Roy Hall

| | | | | | | |
|----------|----|-----|------|------|----|-------|
| Roy Hall | GP | No. | Yds. | Avg. | TD | Avg/G |
| | 11 | 17 | 230 | 13.5 | 1 | 20.9 |

DEFENSE

| | | | | |
|-----------|----|------|------|-------|
| TACKLES | GP | Solo | Ast. | Total |
| A.J. Hawk | 12 | 62 | 79 | 141 |

BOBBY CARPENTER

| | | | | |
|-----------------|----|------|------|-------|
| Bobby Carpenter | GP | Solo | Ast. | Total |
| | 12 | 46 | 47 | 93 |

ANTHONY SCHLEGE

| | | | | |
|------------------|----|------|------|-------|
| Anthony Schlegel | GP | Solo | Ast. | Total |
| | 12 | 46 | 38 | 84 |

SACKS

| | | | |
|------------|----|-----|------|
| Mike Kudla | GP | No. | Yds. |
| | 11 | 4.0 | 22 |

ANTHONY SCHLEGEL

| | | | |
|------------------|----|-----|------|
| Anthony Schlegel | GP | No. | Yds. |
| | 12 | 3.5 | 21 |

SIMON FRASER

| | | | |
|--------------|----|-----|------|
| Simon Fraser | GP | No. | Yds. |
| | 12 | 2.5 | 15 |

INTERCEPTIONS

| | | | | | |
|----------------|----|-----|------|------|----|
| Ashton Youboty | GP | No. | Yds. | Avg. | TD |
| | 4 | 83 | 20.8 | 0 | 0 |

Bobby Carpenter

| | | | | | |
|-----------------|----|-----|------|------|----|
| Bobby Carpenter | GP | No. | Yds. | Avg. | TD |
| | 3 | 13 | 4.3 | 0 | 0 |

Nate Salley

| | | | | | |
|-------------|----|-----|------|------|----|
| Nate Salley | GP | No. | Yds. | Avg. | TD |
| | 2 | 0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 |



DREW TATE, QB

IOWA HAWKEYES

2004 Record: 10-2 overall, 7-1 Big Ten (beat LSU in the Capital One Bowl, 30-25)

Stadium: Kinnick Stadium

Turf: Grass

Official athletic Web site: www.hawkeyesports.com

Capacity: 70,397

PRESEASON RANK:

FIVE-YEAR WINS TREND

4

| | | | | |
|------|------|------|------|------|
| 3 | 7 | 11 | 10 | 10 |
| 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 |

Head coach: Kirk Ferentz, 7th Year (42-31) Career Record: 54-52

Assistant coaches: Ron Bernard Aiken (def. line), Lester Erb (WRS/special teams), Carl Jackson (RBS), Eric Johnson (recruiting coord./TEs), Reese Morgan (off. line), Ken O'Keefe (off. coord./QBs), Norm Parker (def. coord./ILBs), Phil Parker (def. backs), Darrell Wilson (OLBs/special teams)



2005 SCHEDULE

| DATE | OPPONENT | '04 RESULT |
|-------|---------------|------------|
| S. 3 | Ball State | |
| S. 10 | @IOWA STATE | 17-10 |
| S. 17 | Northern Iowa | |
| S. 24 | @OHIO STATE | 33-7 |
| 0.1 | Illinois | 23-13 |
| 0.8 | @PURDUE | 23-21 |
| 0.15 | Indiana | |
| 0.22 | Michigan | 17-30 |
| N. 5 | @NORTHWESTERN | |
| N. 12 | @WISCONSIN | 30-7 |
| N. 19 | Minnesota | 29-27 |

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 13
Lettermen returning/lost: 45/17

OFFENSE

| | | |
|----|----|---------------------------------|
| QB | 5 | Drew Tate (6-0, 185, Jr.) |
| FB | 35 | Tom Busch (5-11, 231, So.) |
| RB | 33 | Marques Simmons (5-8, 202, Sr.) |
| LT | 75 | Ben Gates (6-6, 286, Sr.) |
| LG | 74 | David Walker (6-2, 295, Sr.) |
| C | 61 | Brian Ferentz (6-3, 282, Sr.) |
| RG | 54 | Mike Elgin (6-4, 277, Jr.) |
| RT | 76 | Mike Jones (6-5, 299, Jr.) |
| TE | 30 | Ryan Majerus (6-3, 237, Jr.) |
| SE | 88 | Clinton Solomon (6-3, 196, Sr.) |
| WR | 11 | Ed Hinkel (6-1, 190, Sr.) |

DEFENSE

| | | |
|-----|----|---------------------------------|
| DE | 92 | Ken Iwebera (6-4, 246, So.) |
| DT | 53 | Matt Kroul (6-3, 256, r-Fr.) |
| DT | 72 | George Esharetu (6-3, 284, So.) |
| DE | 99 | Bryan Mattison (6-3, 262, So.) |
| OLB | 27 | Edmond Miles (6-1, 222, Jr.) |
| MLB | 52 | Abdul Hodge (6-2, 234, Sr.) |
| WLB | 18 | Chad Greenway (6-4, 244, Sr.) |
| LCB | 26 | Jovon Johnson (5-9, 177, Sr.) |
| RCB | 20 | Antwan Allen (5-10, 180, Sr.) |
| FS | 13 | Charles Godfrey (6-1, 202, So.) |
| SS | 25 | Marcus Paschal (6-0, 199, Jr.) |

SPECIALISTS

| | | |
|----|---|-----------------------------------|
| PK | 1 | Kyle Schlicher (5-9, 179, Jr.) |
| P | 6 | Andy Fenstermaker (6-3, 221, Jr.) |

RATING THE RECRUITS

- Corey Robertson, RB
Two-time Texas all-stater is also a great hurdler.
- Dave Richardson, OL
Huge frame; U.S. Army All-America choice.
- Dan Doehring, OL
Earned 10 letters in football, basketball and track.
- Jake Christensen, QB
Like Richardson and Doehring, part of Illinois raid.
- Trey Stross, WR/P
All-American with size to catch the ball or kick it.

Ferentz's brilliance will be tested this year, as Hawkeyes must replace 11 starters

When four teams are as even as those at the top of the Big Ten this season, the tough part isn't picking a champion: It's deciding which one is likely to be fourth.

If that has to be the Hawkeyes, they might find they're the best fourth-place team in the nation.

The most difficult part is making that pick with the belief Kirk Ferentz is the best coach in college football. What he has done in six seasons in Iowa City is nothing short of miraculous—a description reserved in Big Ten circles for Iowa's turnaround under Hayden Fry from 1981-90 and Northwestern's three titles from 1995-2000.

After building from one win to three to seven, Ferentz led the Hawkeyes to 11 victories in 2002 and 10 triumphs in each of the past two years. Those three straight seasons with double-digit wins are one more than Michigan State has had in its history.

Iowa's 20-4 Big Ten record the last three years ties Michigan for the best record in the conference. Ferentz's teams defeated the Wolverines in two of those seasons. And the four-loss total? Seven teams had four or more Big Ten losses in 2004 alone.

The Hawkeyes' only hiccups last year were a bizarre no-show at Arizona State and a double-payback loss at Michigan. Those setbacks were all but forgotten when Iowa walloped Wisconsin 30-7 for a share of the conference crown, then stunned LSU 30-25 in the Capital One Bowl on a last-gasp pass with no time showing.

That eight-game winning streak was more remarkable since four of the top five ball-carriers were injured, with three out for the season by Oct. 2. The Hawkeyes' only rushing yards the rest of the way came from a walk-on and a transfer. Somehow, Ferentz's staff and players adjusted.

Iowa enters this season with the league's top quarterback and two of the nation's best tacklers. So why the fourth-place pick? The Hawkeyes return just 13 starters, fewer than any of the other contenders. They also have a tougher schedule, with visits to Ohio State and Purdue plus a home game against Michigan.

Still, Iowa has won 18 straight games in Kinnick Stadium for the first time. If it comes down to a matchup of last year's 7-1 co-champs, the

Hawkeyes will know they had a better overall record last season and their seniors have won more games than the Wolverines.

Junior quarterback Drew Tate won more than his share en route to All-Big Ten recognition. Tate hit 233 of 375 passes, 62.5 percent, for 2,786 yards and 20 TDs. He was second in the conference in pass efficiency despite a league-high 14 interceptions. On a team with no other quarterback who has thrown a pass, Tate is clearly the MVP.

His 56-yard strike to Warren Holloway in the final seconds Jan. 1 was a magic moment in Iowa history. And Tate should have two better targets this year in senior wide receivers Ed Hinkel and Clinton Solomon. Hinkel had 63 catches for 744 yards and seven scores last season, including a diving snare in the end zone at Michigan. Solomon had 58 grabs for 905 yards and six TDs.

Tate's bodyguards include four returnees.

Junior right guard Mike Elgin (6-4, 277) is an All-Big Ten candidate. Senior center Brian Ferentz (6-3, 282), Kirk's son, made an inspiring return from multiple knee surgeries. Junior Mike Jones (6-5, 299) is back at right tackle after starting 10 games at left guard. Senior Ben Gates (6-6, 286) will battle junior-college transfer Marshal Yanda (6-4, 315) for the left tackle job. Last year's starter there, Lee Gray, is out for the season after undergoing knee surgery in the offseason.

Pete McMahon's departure and Jones' position-switch leave a guard spot for senior David Walker (6-2, 295). And with tight end Tony Jackson gone, juniors Ryan Majerus (6-3, 237) and Scott Chandler (6-7, 242) will battle for minutes. Majerus played in every game last season, while Chandler was Iowa's No. 4 receiver as a wideout, grabbing 24 passes for 324 yards and three scores.

The blocking and ball-carrying must improve for the Hawkeyes to vault from last in the league in rushing to the middle of the pack. With just 871 yards on the ground and a 2.0 average per carry, Iowa had less than a third of the outputs of Minnesota and Michigan State.

If the running game is your idea of entertaining football, Kinnick Stadium was the wrong place to be in 2004. Opponents had almost as much trouble rushing as the Hawkeyes and were held to 92.5 yards per game, 2.8 per carry, by the league's stingiest run stoppers.

Iowa's five returnees on defense include the nation's best pair of linebackers—seniors Abdul Hodge in the middle and Chad Greenway at the



weakside spot. Hodge was third in the conference last year with 116 tackles, including 15 against LSU, and has 295 career stops. Greenway had 113 hits, three interceptions and a blocked kick.

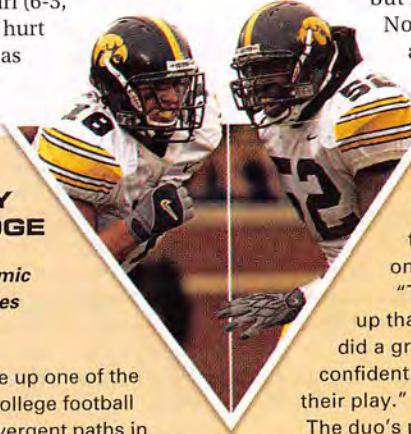
Also back are three-fourths of a secondary that helped the Hawkeyes rank third in the Big Ten in pass defense and first with 17 interceptions. Senior Antwan Allen and junior Jovon Johnson are experienced corners who shared the league lead with four pickoffs. And senior Marcus Paschal started every game at strong safety.

But Iowa will need to replace six starters on coordinator Norm Parker's defense, including super-quick end Matt Roth, a second-round pick of the Miami Dolphins, and free safety Sean Considine, who had five blocked kicks. Opposite end Derreck Robinson, tackles Jonathan Babineaux and Tyler Luebke and outside linebacker George Lewis are gone, too.

The defensive line might be the youngest in the nation, with sophomores Kenny Iwebema (6-4, 246) and Bryan Mattison (6-3, 262) the new ends and redshirt freshman Matt Kroul (6-3, 256) and sophomore George Eshareturi (6-3, 284) at tackle. Injuries could hurt the Hawkeyes here as much as last year's epidemic did at running back.

IN PROFILE ... CHAD GREENWAY AND ABDUL HODGE

Good friends make up dynamic linebacking duo for Hawkeyes



The two players who make up one of the best linebacker tandems in college football couldn't come from more divergent paths in life, yet Iowa's Chad Greenway and Abdul Hodge have formed a close friendship in their time on the Hawkeyes' football team, one that could see both pals become All-America selections when the season is over.

Greenway (6-4, 244 pounds) and Hodge (6-2, 234) ranked first and second, respectively, in total tackles for the Hawkeyes last season. The duo also combined for six sacks and 12.5 tackles for loss, helping the Iowa defense lead the Big Ten in turnovers per game (1.08) and rushing defense (92.5 yards a game).

Greenway found his way to Iowa City via Mount Vernon High in South Dakota, where he played both quarterback and safety in a nine-man football league. Hodge, on the other hand, was a SuperPrep All-American at Boyd Anderson High in Fort Lauderdale, Fla. Despite their surroundings, both had one thing in common—tremendous athleticism.

"Abdul was a little quicker and more instinctive because of where he played," Iowa coach Kirk Ferentz says. "With Chad, it was a little different of a story. He wasn't as polished, but was very productive and we really liked his energy."

Both Greenway and Hodge decided to redshirt their freshman year rather than play on special teams, choosing to focus on improving at their chosen position. It paid off, as both became

Junior Edmond Miles or senior Mike Follett should join Hodge and Greenway at linebacker and see plenty of plays come that way. Sophomore Charles Godfrey and junior Miguel Merrick were the starting safeties in the spring, with Paschal sidelined until the fall.

Iowa's special teams have been outstanding in the Fry and Ferentz years. Junior placekicker Kyle Schlicher did about as well as anyone could succeed all-time leading scorer Nate Kaeding. Schlicher tied a school record with 21 field goals in 26 tries, including five at Minnesota. Senior John Gallery or junior Andy Fenstermaker will replace David Bradley as the punter. Hinkel has been solid on punt returns.

The Hawkeyes should be 3-0 with visits from Ball State and Northern Iowa sandwiching a game at Iowa State. What happens the next five weeks, with tests at Ohio State and Purdue and a rematch with Michigan, should tell whether the conference finish is first, second, third or fourth. Iowa doesn't face Michigan State or Penn State, but finishes with trips to Northwestern and Wisconsin and a Senior Day game with Minnesota—a possible Pasadena send-off.

starters in 2003 and made All-Big Ten, with Hodge on the first team and Greenway on the second.

"Those two really stepped it up that year," Ferentz says. "They did a great job for us, and I felt very confident [about the defense] from their play."

The duo's play reached another level last season, as both enjoyed another year of 100-plus tackles (which put them in the top 25 all-time in school history) and were chosen as all-conference first-team selections.

Ferentz says it's unique to have two athletes as gifted as Hodge and Greenway playing the same position.

"It's a luxury, above anything else," Ferentz says.

When asked if he's ever coached such a dominant duo, Ferentz thought back, then put them in some pretty good company.

"When I was a [graduate] assistant at Pitt in 1980, we had Hugh Green and Ricky Jackson playing on the outside," Ferentz says. "Those two were quite a tandem. Abdul and Chad play in a similar position [both are inside linebackers], in a 3-4 scheme, and that's the parallel I'd draw 25 years later."

Hawkeye fans were relieved in the offseason when Hodge and Greenway decided to stay for their final season and complete their degree in communications.

"I really don't think [entering the draft] ever entered their minds," Ferentz says. "They feel invested with the team and feel like they have an obligation to be strong leaders for us. Their future is very bright."

—Matt McKenzie

2004 TEAM STATS

| TEAM STATISTICS | IOWA | OPP |
|----------------------|------------|------------|
| SCORING | 292 | 211 |
| Points Per Game | 24.3 | 17.6 |
| FIRST DOWNS | 199 | 202 |
| Rushing | 63 | 66 |
| Passing | 119 | 114 |
| Penalty | 17 | 22 |
| RUSHING YARDAGE | 871 | 1110 |
| Yards gained rushing | 1327 | 1410 |
| Yards lost rushing | 456 | 300 |
| Rushing Attempts | 428 | 392 |
| Average Per Rush | 2.0 | 2.8 |
| Average Per Game | 72.6 | 92.5 |
| TDs Rushing | 10 | 8 |
| PASSING YARDAGE | 2881 | 2416 |
| Att-Cmp-Int | 385-239-14 | 424-234-17 |
| Average Per Pass | 7.5 | 5.7 |
| Average Per Catch | 12.1 | 10.3 |
| Average Per Game | 240.1 | 201.3 |
| TDs Passing | 20 | 15 |
| TOTAL OFFENSE | 3752 | 3526 |
| Total Plays | 813 | 816 |
| Average Per Play | 4.6 | 4.3 |
| Average Per Game | 312.7 | 293.8 |
| KICK RETURNS: #-YDS | 29-532 | 44-859 |
| PUNT RETURNS: #-YDS | 38-521 | 33-261 |
| INT RETURNS: #-YDS | 17-203 | 14-209 |
| KICK RETURN AVERAGE | 18.3 | 19.5 |
| PUNT RETURN AVERAGE | 13.7 | 7.9 |
| INT RETURN AVERAGE | 11.9 | 14.9 |
| FUMBLES-LOST | 17-5 | 22-15 |
| PENALTIES-YARDS | 91-675 | 59-485 |
| Average Per Game | 56.2 | 40.4 |
| PUNTS-YARDS | 66-2633 | 67-2761 |
| Average Per Punt | 39.9 | 41.2 |
| Net punt average | 35.9 | 33.4 |
| TIME OF POSS./GAME | 31:32 | 28:28 |
| 3RD-DOWN CONV. | 71/188 | 67/191 |
| 3rd-Down Pct | 38% | 35% |
| 4TH-DOWN CONV. | 4/11 | 13/23 |
| 4th-Down Pct | 36% | 57% |
| SACKS BY-YARDS | 30-172 | 40-290 |
| MISC YARDS | 39 | 5 |
| TOUCHDOWNS SCORED | 33 | 25 |
| FIELD GOALS-ATTEMPTS | 21-26 | 12-22 |
| PAT-ATTEMPTS | 29-32 | 21-23 |
| ATTENDANCE | 422382 | 403560 |
| Games/Avg Per Game | 6/70397 | 5/80712 |
| Neutral Site Games | | 1/70229 |

| SCORE BY QTRS | 1st | 2nd | 3rd | 4th | OT | Total |
|---------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|-------|
| Iowa | 89 | 63 | 69 | 71 | — | 292 |
| Opponents | 25 | 79 | 41 | 66 | — | 211 |

2004 INDIVIDUAL STATS

OFFENSE

PASSING

| Drew Tate | GP | Effic. | Att-Cmp-Int | Pct. | Yds. | TD | Avg/G |
|-----------|--------|------------|-------------|------|------|-------|-------|
| 12 | 134.67 | 375-239-14 | 62.1 | 2786 | 20 | 232.2 | |

ERIC MCCOLLOM

| GP | Effic. | Att-Cmp-Int | Pct. | Yds. | TD | Avg/G |
|----|--------|-------------|------|------|----|-------|
| 1 | 153.85 | 8-5-0 | 62.5 | 87 | 0 | 87.0 |

RUSHING

| GP | Att. | Net Avg. | TD | Avg/G |
|----------------|------|----------|-----|-------|
| Sam Brownlee | 9 | 94 | 227 | 2.4 |
| Jermelle Lewis | 4 | 57 | 200 | 3.5 |
| M. Simmons | 6 | 51 | 194 | 3.8 |

RECEIVING

| GP | No. | Yds. | Avg. | TD | Avg/G |
|-----------------|-----|------|------|------|-------|
| Ed Hinkel | 12 | 63 | 744 | 11.8 | 7 |
| Clinton Solomon | 12 | 58 | 905 | 15.6 | 6 |
| Warren Holloway | 12 | 29 | 283 | 9.8 | 1 |

DEFENSE

| TACKLES | GP | Solo | Ast. | Total |
|----------------|----|------|------|-------|
| Abdul Hodge | 12 | 79 | 37 | 116 |
| Chad Greenway | 12 | 71 | 42 | 113 |
| Marcus Paschal | 12 | 38 | 20 | 58 |

SACKS

| GP | No. | Yds. |
|--------------------|-----|------|
| Jonathan Babineaux | 12 | 11 |
| Matt Roth | 12 | 8 |
| Chad Greenway | 12 | 3 |
| Abdul Hodge | 12 | 3 |

INTERCEPTIONS

| No. | Yds. | Avg. | TD |
|----------------|------|------|------|
| Antwan Allen | 4 | 54 | 13.5 |
| Jovon Johnson | 4 | 13 | 3.2 |
| Sean Considine | 3 | 62 | 20.7 |



MICHIGAN STATE

SPARTANS

EAST LANSING, MICH.

2004 Record: 5-7 overall, 4-4 Big Ten

Stadium: Spartan Stadium

Official athletic Web site: www.msuspartans.com

Turf: Grass

Capacity: 72,027

PRESEASON RANK:

FIVE-YEAR WINS TREND

5

5 7 4 8 5
2000 2001 2002 2003 2004

Head coach: John L. Smith, 3rd Year (13-12) Career Record: 123-72

Assistant coaches: Dave Baldwin (off. coord./TEs), Mike Cox (LBS), Jim McElwain (asst. head coach/WRs), Doug Nussmeier (QBs), Chris Smeal (def. coord./safeties), Jeff Stouland (off. line)



2005 SCHEDULE

| DATE | OPPONENT | '04 RESULTS |
|-------|--------------|-------------|
| S. 3 | Kent State | |
| S. 10 | Hawaii | 38-41 |
| S. 17 | @NOTRE DAME | 24-31 |
| S. 24 | @ILLINOIS | 38-25 |
| O. 1 | Michigan | 37-45 (OT) |
| O. 15 | @OHIO STATE | 19-32 |
| O. 22 | Northwestern | |
| O. 29 | Indiana | 30-20 |
| N. 5 | @PURDUE | |
| N. 12 | @MINNESOTA | 51-17 |
| N. 19 | Penn State | 13-37 |

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 14
Lettermen returning/lost: 39/21

OFFENSE

| | | |
|----|----|----------------------------------|
| QB | 5 | Drew Stanton (6-3, 228, Jr.) |
| RB | 20 | Jason Teague (5-9, 199, Sr.) |
| LT | 72 | Stefon Wheeler (6-5, 320, Sr.) |
| LG | 74 | Kyle Cook (6-3, 293, Jr.) |
| C | 51 | Chris Morris (6-4, 298, Sr.) |
| RG | 71 | Gordon Niebylski (6-3, 314, Sr.) |
| RT | 66 | Mike Gyetvai (6-7, 305, So.) |
| TE | 89 | Ryan Woods (6-4, 259, Sr.) |
| WR | 6 | Matt Trannon (6-6, 225, Sr.) |
| WR | 3 | Kyle Brown (6-1, 207, Sr.) |
| WR | 32 | Jerramy Scott (5-10, 185, Jr.) |

DEFENSE

| | | |
|-----|----|----------------------------------|
| DE | 40 | Michael Bazemore (6-3, 263, Sr.) |
| DT | 96 | Domata Peko (6-2, 310, Sr.) |
| DT | 99 | Brandon McKinney (6-3, 315, Sr.) |
| DE | 92 | Clifton Ryan (6-2, 294, Jr.) |
| BAN | 36 | Eric Smith (6-1, 193, Sr.) |

| | | |
|-----|----|---------------------------------|
| MLB | 43 | Kaleb Thornhill (6-1, 237, So.) |
| WLB | 41 | David Herron (6-1, 250, Jr.) |
| LCB | 12 | Ashton Watson (5-11, 186, Sr.) |
| RCB | 31 | Jaren Hayes (5-9, 180, Sr.) |
| FS | 29 | Greg Cooper (5-11, 187, Jr.) |

| | | |
|-------------|----|-----------------------------|
| SS | 38 | Cole Corey (5-10, 194, So.) |
| SPECIALISTS | | |

| | | |
|----|----|--------------------------------|
| PK | 11 | John Goss (6-3, 214, r-Jr.) |
| P | 8 | Brandon Fields (6-6, 235, Jr.) |

RATING THE RECRUITS

1. Javon Ringer, RB
Electrifying runner; 6,184 yards and 81 TDs in HS.
2. Andrew Hawken, LB
Big, fast, smart; did everything but take tickets.
3. Ryan Allison, WR
Better size, speed and stats than Kirk Gibson.
4. Demond Williams, CB
Jucos could help right away, especially on returns.
5. Bobby Jones, DL
Jucos flashed pass-rush potential in spring ball.

Spartans look to end bowl drought behind high-powered offense

Just when it seemed the Spartans had made progress, going from 4-8 under Bobby Williams to 8-5 in John L. Smith's first season, injuries and inconsistency brought another winter with no bowl game.

Granted, Michigan State had moments of greatness, mauling Minnesota 51-17, leading Michigan 27-10 with less than 10 minutes left in Ann Arbor and waxing fourth-ranked Wisconsin 49-14. It also had maddening giveaways to the Wolverines in triple overtime, to Ohio State and to Hawaii.

The final mark was 5-7, 4-4 in Big Ten play. Don't be surprised if the Spartans use that experience this year and post their best record since a 10-2 run under Nick Saban in 1999.

Eight starters are back from an offense that produced 29.6 points and a league-high 460 yards per game. But only six regulars return from a disappointing defense. That rebuilding job could be a blessing if some younger players develop.

The most important returnee is junior quarterback Drew Stanton, who showed he's as good as any leader in the conference when healthy. Stanton completed 141 of 220 throws (64.1 percent) for 1,601 yards with eight TDs and six interceptions. He also rushed 96 times for 687 yards, a 7.2-yard average and five scores.

Despite the loss of blazer DeAndra Cobb's 728 rushing yards, including 7.6 per carry, Michigan State could have one of the Big Ten's top ground games. Senior Jason Teague (5-9, 199 pounds) gets as much as possible from his physical tools. He netted 688 yards, 4.6 per pop, in a team-high 150 carries. Sophomore Jehuu Caulcrick (6-0, 243) added 619 yards, getting 5.5 per try with five TDs.

The Spartans' other strength could be a deep receiving corps led by senior flanker Kyle Brown, one of the team's fastest players and a star in spring drills. Brown's 23 catches for 302 yards trailed the totals of junior slot receiver Jerramy Scott, senior split end Matt Trannon and senior slot Agim Shabaz. Scott had 39 grabs for 444 yards, Trannon 36 for 405 and Shabaz 29 for 308.

Senior Chris Morris (6-4, 298) is one of the nation's top centers. The left side of the line returns with senior tackle Stefon Wheeler (6-5, 320) and junior guard Kyle Cook (6-3, 293).

Senior Gordon Niebylski (6-3, 314) takes over at right guard. Sophomore Mike Gyetvai (6-7, 305) lines up at right tackle. And senior Ryan Woods (6-4, 259) and sophomore Kellen Davis (6-6, 244) are the new tight ends.

Placekicker Dave Rayner, the school's leading career scorer, will be replaced by strong-legged junior John Goss (6-3, 214). Junior punter Brandon Fields (6-6, 235) could improve on his 47.9-yard average, the third best in Big Ten history. But the return game won't be as good without Cobb's contributions on kickoffs.

The defense has more questions than most game shows. Junior end Clifton Ryan (6-2, 294), senior tackle Brandon McKinney (6-3, 315), junior linebacker David Herron and senior bandit Eric Smith have shown flashes. But senior tackle Domata Peko (6-2, 310), senior end Michael Bazemore (6-3, 263) and sophomore middle linebacker Kaleb Thornhill will have to deliver.

The secondary is shaky, with senior cornerback Jaren Hayes being the lone returning starter. Senior corner Ashton Watson, junior free safety Greg Cooper and sophomore strong safety Cole Corey could determine where Michigan State finishes.

The Spartans travel to Notre Dame, Ohio State, Purdue and Minnesota, but they get Michigan in East Lansing. The question is whether they'll play in warmer weather the week after Christmas.



CHRIS MORRIS, C

MINNESOTA

GOLDEN GOPHERS



MINNEAPOLIS

2004 Record: 7-5 overall, 3-5 Big Ten (beat Alabama in the Music City Bowl, 20-16)

Stadium: Hubert H. Humphrey Metrodome

Turf: Artificial

Capacity: 64,172

Official athletic Web site: www.gophersports.com



FIVE-YEAR WINS TREND



PRESEASON RANK:

6

Head coach: Glen Mason, 9th Year (51-45) Career Record: 110-109-1

Assistant coaches: Moe Ankney (asst. head coach/OLBs), Mitch Browning (off. coord./Ts/TEs), David Lockwood (def. coord./ILBs), Tony Petersen (passing game coord./QBs), Gordon Shaw (OGs/centers), Vic Adamle (RBs), Luke Tressel (WRs), Carey Bailey (DL), Kerry Cooks (def. secondary)



LAURENCE MARONEY, RB

Gopher offense should move the sticks behind All-America running back Laurence Maroney

Yes, the Golden Gophers are still eligible to play in the Rose Bowl. It's just that most of their living alumni weren't born the last time the Maroon-and-Gold visited Pasadena.

Last year was another classic Minnesota tease. Glen Mason's team was 5-0 and No. 13 in both polls when it fell by three points at Michigan. The bottom fell out the following week in a 34-point pounding at Michigan State. After a shutout of Illinois, the Gophers lost at Indiana and Wisconsin and at home to Iowa before a pro-Hawkeye crowd. A win over Alabama in the Music City Bowl made the record 7-5, 3-5 in Big Ten play, and only suggested what might have been.

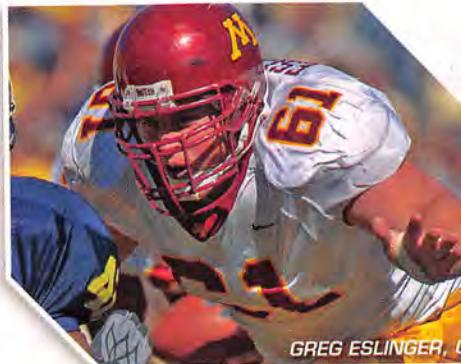
Minnesota returns 15 starters, eight on offense and seven on defense. But having to face all four of the league favorites—Purdue and Ohio State in Minneapolis, Michigan in Ann Arbor and Iowa in Iowa City—isn't the schedule Mason would have devised.

The offense should be excellent with junior running back Laurence Maroney, junior quarterback Bryan Cupito, senior wide receiver Jared Ellerson and sophomore wideout Ernie Wheelwright, plus All-Big Ten center Greg Eslinger and guard Mark Setterstrom, both seniors.

Maroney rushed for 1,348 yards, 6.2 per carry, and 12 TDs in his second season with 1,000-plus yards. If he stays in the Twin Cities for four years, he could shatter virtually every school record for runners, especially since Dallas Cowboys draftee Marion Barber III won't be splitting time and netting 1,269 yards anymore.

Cupito completed 123 passes in 261 attempts, just 47.1 percent, for 2,097 yards and 14 scores, with seven interceptions. The Gophers rush more than twice as often as they pass, so Cupito doesn't have to be Daunte Culpepper. Still, a little more accuracy would help.

With Ellerson, Wheelwright (6-5, 210) and junior tight end Mark Spaeth (6-6, 270), Cupito should have three solid targets. Ellerson had 37 catches for 51 yards and three TDs, Wheelwright 30 grabs for 654 yards and seven scores and Spaeth 24 receptions for 298 yards and four TDs. Don't be shocked if they team for 125 catches, 2,000 yards and 20 scores.



GREG ESLINGER, C

CHRIS BERNACCHI / SPORTPIXS

Eslinger (6-3, 285) and Setterstrom (6-3, 295) are as good as any interior-line combination in the country. Junior right tackle Joe Ainslie (6-7, 300) also returns, while senior right guard Mike Nicholson (6-5, 285) and sophomore left tackle Steve Shidell (6-5, 285) seem ready to start.

The defense isn't as strong as a Minnesota offense that averaged 30.1 points and 438.3 yards per game. It doesn't have to be for the Gophers to be the year's surprise team. But it can't rank last against the pass, as it did in allowing 266 yards per game with since-departed All-Big Ten cornerback Ukee Dozier.

Senior strongside linebacker Kyle McKenzie led the Gophers with 79 tackles last year. Senior Terrance Campbell moved from weakside linebacker to strong safety before the bowl game and wound up with 70 stops. And senior John Pawlowski had 70 hits at free safety.

Senior tackles Mark Losli (6-6, 290) and Anthony Montgomery (6-5, 305) have first-string experience. So do junior drop linebacker Mario Reese and junior cornerback Trumaine Banks, part of an endangered pass defense.

Junior end Eric Clark (6-4, 265), sophomore weakside linebacker John Shevlin, sophomore cornerback Jamal Harris and junior strong safety Brandon Owens are the new starters on defense. If Minnesota starts to play a full season instead of letting success slip away, anything is possible in Minneapolis—even an on-campus stadium in the near future. BIG TEN

2005 SCHEDULE

| DATE | OPPONENT | '04 RESULT |
|-------|------------------|------------|
| S. 1 | @TULSA | |
| S. 10 | Colorado State | 34-16 |
| S. 17 | Florida Atlantic | |
| S. 24 | Purdue | |
| O. 1 | @PENN STATE | 16-7 |
| O. 8 | @MICHIGAN | 24-27 |
| O. 15 | Wisconsin | 14-38 |
| O. 29 | Ohio State | |
| N. 5 | @INDIANA | 21-30 |
| N. 12 | Michigan State | 17-51 |
| N. 19 | @IOWA | 27-29 |

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 15
Lettermen returning/lost: 35/13

OFFENSE

| | | |
|----|----|-----------------------------------|
| QB | 3 | Bryan Cupito (6-1, 195, Jr.) |
| FB | 18 | Justin Valentine (6-2, 215, So.) |
| TB | 22 | Laurence Maroney (5-11, 205, Jr.) |
| LT | 64 | Steve Shidell (6-5, 285, So.) |
| LG | 68 | Mark Setterstrom (6-3, 295, Sr.) |
| C | 61 | Greg Eslinger (6-3, 285, Sr.) |
| RG | 60 | Mike Nicholson (6-5, 285, Sr.) |
| RT | 78 | Joe Ainslie (6-7, 300, Jr.) |
| TE | 89 | Matt Spaeth (6-6, 270, Jr.) |
| WR | 83 | Jared Ellerson (6-1, 200, Jr.) |
| WR | 82 | Ernie Wheelwright (6-5, 210, So.) |

DEFENSE

| | | |
|-----|----|------------------------------------|
| DE | 99 | Keith Lipka (6-3, 260, Sr.) |
| NT | 95 | Anthony Montgomery (6-5, 305, Sr.) |
| DT | 97 | Mark Losli (6-6, 290, Sr.) |
| DE | 90 | Eric Clark (6-4, 265, Jr.) |
| SLB | 52 | Kyle McKenzie (6-1, 235, Sr.) |
| DLB | 48 | Mario Reese (6-3, 230, Jr.) |
| WLB | 46 | John Shevlin (6-1, 220, Sr.) |
| CB | 15 | Jamal Harris (6-0, 180, So.) |
| CB | 4 | Trumaine Banks (5-10, 185, Jr.) |
| FS | 34 | John Pawlowski (5-11, 200, Sr.) |
| SS | 20 | Brandon Owens (6-2, 210, Jr.) |

SPECIALISTS

| | | |
|----|----|---------------------------------|
| PK | 31 | Jason Giannini (5-10, 180, Fr.) |
| P | 41 | Justin Kucek (6-0, 180, Fr.) |

RATING THE RECRUITS

1. Alex Daniels, LB
Named 11th-best athlete in nation by Rivals.com.
2. Dominic Jones, DB
Twenty-seven sacks, 10 TD kick returns as prep.
3. Jay Thomas, RB
All-purpose back; ran a 21.49 in 200 meters.
4. Ryan Ruckdashel, OL
Had 7 pancake blocks per game as a senior tackle.
5. Marcel Jones, QB
Pro-style passer was also an all-league wrestler.



MICHAEL ROBINSON, QB



PENN STATE

NITTANY LIONS

UNIVERSITY PARK, PA.

2004 Record: 4-7 overall, 2-6 Big Ten

Stadium: Beaver Stadium

Official athletic Web site: www.gopsusports.com

Turf: Grass

Capacity: 107,501

PRESEASON RANK:

FIVE-YEAR WINS TREND

7

2000 2001 2002 2003 2004

Head coach: Joe Paterno, 40th Year (343-116-3) Career Record: 343-116-3

Assistant coaches: Dick Anderson (off. line), Tom Bradley (def. coord.), Galen Hall (off. coord./RBS), Larry Johnson (def. line), Bill Kenney (off. tackles/TEs), Mike McQueary (WRs asst.), Brian Norwood (def. backs), Jay Paterno (QBs), Ron Vanderlinde (LBs)



2005 SCHEDULE

| DATE | OPPONENT | '04 RESULT |
|-------|------------------|------------|
| S. 3 | South Florida | |
| S. 10 | Cincinnati | |
| S. 17 | Central Michigan | |
| S. 24 | @NORTHWESTERN | 7-14 |
| O. 1 | Minnesota | 7-16 |
| O. 8 | Ohio State | 10-21 |
| O. 15 | @MICHIGAN | |
| O. 22 | @ILLINOIS | |
| O. 29 | Purdue | 13-20 |
| N. 5 | Wisconsin | 3-16 |
| N. 19 | @MICHIGAN STATE | 37-13 |

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 19
Lettermen returning/lost: 34/16

OFFENSE

| | | |
|----|----|----------------------------------|
| QB | 12 | Michael Robinson (6-2, 217, Sr.) |
| FB | 34 | Matt Hahn (6-0, 219, So.) |
| TB | 26 | Tony Hunt (6-2, 219, Jr.) |
| LT | 67 | Levi Brown (6-5, 324, Jr.) |
| LG | 59 | Charles Rush (6-2, 304, Sr.) |
| C | 77 | E.Z. Smith (6-1, 283, Sr.) |
| RG | 74 | Tyler Reed (6-4, 307, Sr.) |
| RT | 68 | John Wilson (6-6, 317, Sr.) |
| TE | 81 | Isaac Smolko (6-5, 257, Sr.) |
| WR | 80 | Mark Rubin (6-3, 213, So.) |
| WR | 2 | Derrick Williams (6-0, 191, Fr.) |

DEFENSE

| | | |
|------|----|--------------------------------|
| DE | 91 | Tamba Hali (6-3, 267, Sr.) |
| DT | 13 | Jay Alford (6-3, 285, Sr.) |
| DT | 41 | Scott Paxson (6-5, 284, Sr.) |
| DE | 55 | Matthew Rice (6-4, 256, Sr.) |
| OLB | 40 | Dan Connor (6-3, 220, So.) |
| MLB | 20 | Tim Shaw (6-1, 233, Jr.) |
| OLB | 31 | Paul Posluszny (6-2, 229, Jr.) |
| CB | 21 | Alan Zemaitis (6-2, 201, Sr.) |
| CB | 1 | Anwar Phillips (6-1, 182, Sr.) |
| FS | 29 | Paul Cronin (6-2, 216, Sr.) |
| HERO | 10 | Calvin Lowry (6-0, 200, Sr.) |

SPECIALISTS

| | | |
|----|----|---------------------------------|
| PK | 13 | Patrick Humes (5-8, 150, r-Fr.) |
| P | 36 | Jeremy Kapinos (6-1, 222, Jr.) |

RATING THE RECRUITS

1. Justin King, CB
One of no-brainer prospects in U.S. will help now.
2. Derrick Williams, WR
Superior talent will provide needed big plays.
3. Lydell Sargent, TB
Childhood friend of King's came east from Calif.
4. Jerome Hayes, LB
Another King pal and Signing Day coup from N.J.
5. Francis Claude, TE
Big target from British Columbia enrolled early.

Say it ain't so, Joe: Eleven years (and counting) without a Rose Bowl

To a lot of young players, 40 years is a long time to live, much less to be a Big Ten head coach. To Nittany Lions living legend Joe Paterno, four decades in charge and 55 seasons overall in Happy Valley just means he knows something his players don't: how it feels to win.

The second-winningest coach in Division I-A history knew his team would have to play well to survive last year's gauntlet—four straight games against ranked opponents before a trip to suddenly unranked Ohio State. Instead, the Lions lost them all in a six-game skid and a 4-7 season.

It's no consolation that Penn State was the only program in the country to hold every opponent to 21 points or less. And so what if it held Iowa to a season-low six points? Paterno's players managed only two safeties, lost by two and wound up ninth in the conference at 2-6.

For a coach with 343 victories (and that's more games than some schools have won), a Rose Bowl drought was never supposed to reach 11 years. But that's where the Lions are, with no end in sight, even with as many as 19 starters returning.

The offense should center around two of the nation's most versatile talents, senior quarterback/receiver Michael Robinson and junior tailback Tony Hunt. Both could have starred in the days of two-way football.

Robinson, the only player in the country to rank second on his team in passing and receiving, must be more accurate to hold off sophomore quarterback Anthony Morelli and others. If Robinson will never match the numbers of Zack Mills, he'll present a greater running threat. Just don't expect him to catch 33 balls again.

Hunt was surprisingly good for an anemic offense that averaged just 17.7 points and 310.7 yards per game. He led Penn State in rushing with 777 yards, a 4.6 average and seven TDs, and was tops in receiving with 39 catches for 334 yards—151 less than Robinson's total.

The offensive line could be better with seniors Charles Rush (6-2, 304 pounds) and (if cleared to play) Tyler Reed (6-4, 307) at guard, plus junior Levi Brown (6-5, 324) and senior John Wilson (6-6, 317) at tackle. Senior tight end Isaac Smolko

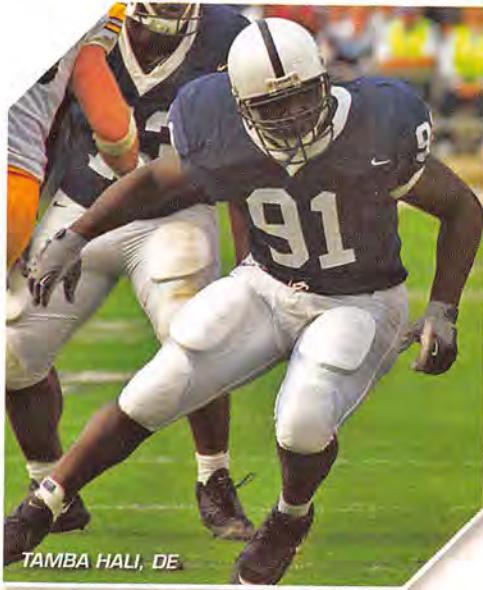
(6-5, 257) and sophomore wide receiver Mark Rubin (6-3, 213) are also back.

The defense doesn't need an overhaul—just overall progress—to rank with the best in the conference. Junior Paul Posluszny was sixth in the Big Ten last year with 104 tackles. Senior hero back Calvin Lowry and senior cornerback Alan Zemaitis shared the conference lead with four interceptions.

Senior ends Matthew Rice (6-4, 256) and Tamba Hali (6-3, 267), junior tackle Jay Alford (6-3, 285) and senior tackle Scott Paxson (6-5, 284) are one of the league's best foursomes. Sophomore linebacker Dan Connor had an excellent debut with 85 stops. And senior Anwar Phillips has experience at corner, though standout freshman Justin King will play somewhere.

Penn State has seven home dates and doesn't face Iowa. The early schedule includes visits from South Florida, Cincinnati and Central Michigan before Big Ten games at Northwestern and against Minnesota. The following two weeks against Ohio State and at Michigan should tell the story. Penn State needs to win one of those games or beat Purdue in State College two weeks later to be a surprise contender.

Paterno won't be around forever. Sometimes it just seems that way. But he should end with pride and at least one more bowl win. There's no better time to start. **By Tim**



TAMBA HALI, DE.

NORTHWESTERN

WILDCATS

EVANSTON, ILL.

2004 Record: 6-6 overall, 5-3 Big Ten

Stadium: Ryan Field

Official athletic Web site: www.nusports.com

Turf: Grass

Capacity: 47,130



FIVE-YEAR WINS TREND

| | | | | |
|------|------|------|------|------|
| 8 | 4 | 3 | 6 | 6 |
| 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 |

PRESEASON RANK:

8

Head coach: Randy Walker, 7th Year (30-41) Career Record: 89-76-5

Assistant coaches: Jerry Brown (asst. head coach/DBs), Greg Colby (def. coord.), Mike Dunbar (off. coord.), Pat Fitzgerald (LBs), Jack Glowik (TEs/H-backs), Kevin Johns (RBs), Garrick McGee (WRs), James Patton (off. line), Eric Washington (def. line)



BRETT BASANEZ, QB

No-respect Wildcats appear set to get back on the winning track

For years the big question was whether the Wildcats would win a Big Ten football championship in anyone's lifetime.

Apparently, no one bothered to ask Gary Barnett or Randy Walker, who led Northwestern to three league titles in the last 10 years, second only to Michigan.

That's the good news.

The bad is a five-year lag since the last shared conference crown, meaning no current Wildcat player was part of that second wave of glory. Worse yet, a third wave is hard to see in the distance.

Northwestern returns 13 of 24 starters—five on offense, six on defense and both kickers. If quantity is a problem, quality shouldn't be. A program that always seems to lack depth can be a factor in the league race, if not quite a contender, provided the doctors and trainers stay bored.

Last year's Wildcats were 6-6 and a respectable 5-3 in the conference, including a stop-the-presses win over then-No. 7 Ohio State. But a shot at back-to-back bowl bids ended the way it began—in utter frustration. Northwestern stayed home because of a 48-45 double-overtime giveaway at TCU the Saturday before Labor Day and a 49-41 hand-off to Hawaii two days after Thanksgiving.

This time, if Walker's team averages anything close to 43 points in its opener and finale, it will be 2-0. Yes, the Wildcats lost some standouts. Defensive tackle Luis Castillo was the 28th pick in the first round of the draft by the San Diego Chargers.

Versatile running back Noah Herron and offensive tackle Trai Essex were also major contributors.

The key returnee is fifth-year quarterback Brett Basanez, second in the league in total offense with 258 yards per game, average passing yards with 236.5 and completions per game with 20.6. He connected on 247 of 460 throws (53.7 percent) for 2,838 yards and 12 scores, with nine interceptions.

Basanez should be better after 28 straight starts and with five of last year's top seven receivers back. Senior wideouts Mark Philmore and Jonathan Fields combined for 102 catches in 2004. Philmore had 54 grabs for 633 yards and two TDs, while Fields caught 48 balls for 560 yards and four scores.

Senior right tackle Zach Strief (6-7, 335) and junior center Trevor Rees (6-2, 285) are the anchors of a rebuilt offensive line. But with three

new starters there and a new tight end, it won't be easy to replace Herron's 1,381 rushing yards, even for a coach who has produced five 1,000-yard runners in the last six years.

Senior Terrell Jordan has gained 568 yards, 5.1 per carry, as a backup the past two years, but will be pushed by sophomores Nathan Shanks and Brandon Roberson, redshirt freshmen Gerard Hamlett and Akeem Hunter and true freshmen Omar Conteh and Tyrell Sutton.

Northwestern's best player and one of the 10 best linebackers in college football is senior Tim McGarigle, third in the nation last year with 12.6 tackles per game. He had a career-high 21 stops in a win over Purdue and could contend for the Butkus Award if his team wins enough.

Also back on defense are senior end Loren Howard (6-4, 285), senior tackle Barry Cofield (6-4, 305), junior linebacker Nick Roach, fifth-year cornerback and Big Ten kickoff-return champ Jeff Backes and junior strong safety Bryan Heinz, who moves over from free safety.

The Wildcats aren't the cellar-dwellers some still believe. A 9-7 conference mark the past two years should convince folks of that. But then, some still think they'll never win a title. **BB**



TERRELL JORDAN, RB

CHUCK RTOLEROVSKY

2005 SCHEDULE

| DATE | OPPONENT | '04 RESULT |
|-------|-------------------|------------|
| S. 3 | Ohio | |
| S. 10 | Northern Illinois | |
| S. 17 | @ARIZONA STATE | 21-30 |
| S. 24 | Penn State | 14-7 |
| O. 8 | Wisconsin | 12-24 |
| O. 15 | @PURDUE | 13-10 |
| O. 22 | @MICHIGAN STATE | |
| O. 29 | Michigan | 20-42 |
| N. 5 | Iowa | |
| N. 12 | @OHIO STATE | 33-27 (OT) |
| N. 19 | @ILLINOIS | 28-21 (OT) |

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 13
Lettermen returning/lost: 37/17

OFFENSE

| | |
|----|-------------------------------------|
| QB | 14 Brett Basanez (6-2, 210, Sr.) |
| FB | 49 Frayne Abernathy (6-3, 245, So.) |
| TB | 26 Terrell Jordan (5-10, 200, Sr.) |
| LT | 74 Dylan Thiry (6-8, 300, So.) |
| LG | 71 Joe Tripodi (6-3, 300, Jr.) |
| C | 50 Trevor Rees (6-2, 285, Jr.) |
| RG | 56 Ryan Keenan (6-4, 290, Jr.) |
| RT | 63 Zach Strief (6-7, 335, Sr.) |
| TE | 44 Erryn Cobb (6-1, 255, Jr.) |
| WR | 3 Shaun Herbert (6-1, 200, Jr.) |
| WR | 9 Mark Philmore (5-10, 185, Sr.) |

DEFENSE

| | |
|-----|-------------------------------------|
| DE | 66 Loren Howard (6-4, 285, Sr.) |
| DT | 67 Barry Cofield (6-4, 305, Sr.) |
| DT | 53 Trevor Schultz (6-2, 285, Jr.) |
| DE | 72 David Ngene (6-3, 270, So.) |
| SLB | 43 Adam Kadela (6-2, 235, Jr.) |
| MLB | 41 Tim McGarigle (6-1, 235, Sr.) |
| WLB | 38 Nick Roach (6-2, 230, Jr.) |
| LBC | 20 Marquice Cole (5-9, 185, Jr.) |
| RCB | 28 Jeff Backes (5-9, 190, Sr.) |
| FS | 27 Reggie McPherson (6-1, 190, So.) |
| SS | 21 Bryan Heinz (6-1, 205, Jr.) |

SPECIALISTS

| | |
|----|----------------------------------|
| PK | 93 Joel Howells (6-4, 225, Jr.) |
| P | 90 Ryan Pederson (6-3, 215, Jr.) |

RATING THE RECRUITS

1. Tyrell Sutton, RB
Incredible career in OH; packs punch for 5-9, 190.
2. Prince Kwateng, LB
Can he help make Wildcats kings of the Big Ten?
3. Mike Kafka, QB
All the tools to become the successor to Basanez.
4. Tyler Compton, OL
Humble, Texas, giant has lots of reasons to boast
5. Omar Conteh, RB
Another talented Texan with speed and power.



JOHN STOCO, QB



WISCONSIN BADGERS

MADISON, WIS.

2004 Record: 9-3 overall, 6-2 Big Ten (lost to Georgia in the Outback Bowl, 24-21)

Stadium: Camp Randall Stadium

Turf: Artificial

Capacity: 79,500

Official athletic Web site: www.uwbadgers.com

PRESEASON RANK:

FIVE-YEAR WINS TREND

9

9 5 8 7 9

2000 2001 2002 2003 2004

Head coach: Barry Alvarez, 16th Year (108-70-4) Career Record: 108-70-4

Assistant coaches: Bret Bielema (def. coord./LBs), Paul Chryst (co-off. coord./TEs),

Jeff Horton (QBs), Jim Hueber (off. line), Ron Lee (def. backs), Henry Mason (WRs), Brian Murphy (special teams/OLBs), John Palermo (asst. head coach/def. line), Brian White (co-off. coord./RBs)



2005 SCHEDULE

| DATE | OPPONENT | '04 RESULT |
|-------|-----------------|------------|
| S. 3 | Bowling Green | |
| S. 17 | @NORTH CAROLINA | |
| S. 24 | Michigan | |
| O. 1 | Indiana | |
| O. 8 | @NORTHWESTERN | 24-12 |
| O. 15 | @MINNESOTA | 38-14 |
| O. 22 | Purdue | 20-17 |
| O. 29 | @ILLINOIS | 24-7 |
| N. 5 | @PENN STATE | 16-3 |
| N. 12 | Iowa | 7-30 |
| N. 25 | @HAWAII | |

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 11
Lettermen returning/lost: 39/25

OFFENSE

| | |
|----|-----------------------------------|
| QB | 7 John Stocco (6-2, 197, Jr.) |
| FB | 45 Matt Bernstein (6-2, 266, Sr.) |
| TB | 2 Brian Calhoun (5-10, 194, Jr.) |
| LT | 72 Joe Thomas (6-8, 303, Jr.) |
| LG | 76 Matt Lawrence (6-5, 288, Sr.) |
| C | 53 Donovan Raiola (6-3, 294, Sr.) |
| RG | 52 Jason Palermo (6-3, 307, Sr.) |
| RT | 63 Kraig Urbik (6-6, 317, Fr.) |
| TE | 84 Jason Pociask (6-3, 258, Sr.) |
| WR | 9 Jonathan Orr (6-3, 190, Sr.) |
| WR | 8 Brandon White (6-3, 190, Sr.) |

DEFENSE

| | |
|-----|-------------------------------------|
| DE | 95 Joe Monty (6-2, 252, Jr.) |
| DT | 99 Justin Ostrowski (6-5, 304, So.) |
| DT | 96 Nick Hayden (6-5, 302, So.) |
| DE | 5 Jamal Cooper (6-4, 217, So.) |
| SLB | 41 Mark Zalewski (6-2, 228, Jr.) |
| MLB | 43 Andy Crooks (6-3, 242, So.) |
| WLB | 14 Dontez Sanders (6-1, 208, Sr.) |
| LCB | 21 Levonne Rowan (6-1, 191, Sr.) |
| RCB | 6 Brett Bell (6-0, 200, Sr.) |
| FS | 22 Roderick Rogers (6-2, 181, Jr.) |
| SS | 36 Johnny White (6-2, 217, Jr.) |

SPECIALISTS

| | |
|----|------------------------------------|
| PK | 10 Taylor Melhoff (5-11, 179, So.) |
| P | 94 Ken DeBauche (6-2, 219, So.) |

RATING THE RECRUITS

- Travis Beckum, LB
No. 1 player in Wisconsin and sixth LB in country.
- Elijah Hodge, LB
Speed rusher from Fla.; grew up in Virgin Islands.
- Andy Kemp, OL
Guard/tackle arrived in time for spring ball.
- Matthew Shaughnessy, DE
Tall athlete will add weight, a la Erasmus James.
- Shane Carter, DB
Brother of former Ohio St./NFL great Cris Carter.

STEVE BEYER



BRANDON WHITE, WR

ILLINOIS
FIGHTING ILLINI

2004 Record: 3-8 overall, 1-7 Big Ten
 Official athletic Web site: www.fightingillini.com

There's a new Ron running the show in Champaign. Now, if the Fighting Illini can stop opponents' runners and passers occasionally, a school that ruled as late as 2001 might win more than one league game.

After three seasons as head coach at Florida, Ron Zook returns to the Midwest. His Gator teams were 23-14 with three non-BCS bowl bids—good enough in a lot of places but bad enough to get fired in Gainesville.

Zook, a 24-year college and pro assistant, replaces Ron Turner, whose final Illinois team went 3-8 and tied for 10th in the Big Ten at -7. With 16 starters returning—even each on offense and defense and two kickers—reaching .500 is the first objective.

Junior Tim Brasic should get the first shot at replacing quarterback Jon Beutjer. But the Illini's strength is at running back, where juniors E.B. Halsey and Pierre Thomas are as versatile as any rushing tandem in the league. Thomas led the team last year with 893 yards, a 5.9 average and eight TDs.

The top three receivers return in senior wideout Kendrick Jones, senior fullback Jason Davis and junior wideout Franklin Payne. Jones had 47 catches for 687 yards and five scores, while Davis and Payne combined for 66 grabs, mostly for short yardage.

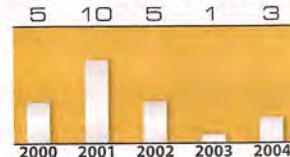
Junior Matt Maddox (6-4, 290 pounds) should move from right guard to center. Sophomore Martin O'Donnell (6-5, 290) will have to hold off sophomore Ben Amundsen (6-6, 305) at left guard. And junior J.J. Simmons (6-6, 290) appears solid at left tackle.

An inadequate defense returns sophomore Xavier Fulton (6-5, 270) at end, sophomore Chris Norwell (6-7, 270) and senior Ryan Matha (6-3, 300) at tackle, sophomore J Leman at linebacker, junior Alan Ball at cornerback and sophomore Justin Harrison and senior Morris Virgil at safety.

Senior punter Steve Weatherford is a valuable weapon, averaging 45.4 yards per kick. He shouldn't be too busy in September with Rutgers and San Jose State on the schedule. That'll change with trips to Iowa, Ohio State and Purdue—three of at least a half-dozen losses.



FIVE-YEAR WINS TREND



2005 SCHEDULE

| DATE | OPPONENT | '04 RESULT |
|-------|----------------|------------|
| S. 3 | Rutgers | |
| S. 10 | San Jose State | |
| S. 17 | @CALIFORNIA | |
| S. 24 | Michigan State | 25-38 |
| O. 1 | @IOWA | 13-23 |
| O. 8 | @INDIANA | 26-22 |
| O. 22 | Penn State | |
| O. 29 | Wisconsin | 7-24 |
| N. 5 | @OHIO STATE | |
| N. 12 | @PURDUE | 30-38 |
| N. 19 | Northwestern | 21-28 (OT) |

Head coach: Ron Zook,

1st Year (0-0)

Career Record: 23-14

Stadium: Memorial Stadium

Turf: Artificial

Capacity: 69,249

PROJECTED STARTERS

| |
|--|
| Starters returning: 16 |
| Lettermen returning/lost: 47/18 |
| OFFENSE |
| QB 15 Tim Brasic (6-2, 185, Jr.) |
| FB 34 Jason Davis (5-11, 220, Sr.) |
| RB 30 Pierre Thomas (5-11, 190, Jr.) |
| LT 57 J.J. Simmons (6-6, 290, Jr.) |
| LG 69 Ben Amundsen (6-6, 305, So.) |
| C 67 Matt Maddox (6-4, 290, Jr.) |
| RG 79 James Ryan (6-6, 310, So.) |
| RT 68 Jim LaBonte (6-7, 300, So.) |
| TE 88 Melvin Bryant (6-5, 235, Jr.) |
| WR 84 Kendrick Jones (6-2, 180, Sr.) |
| WR 80 Franklin Payne (6-0, 185, Jr.) |
| DEFENSE |
| DE 98 Xavier Fulton (6-5, 270, So.) |
| DT 97 Ryan Matha (6-3, 300, Sr.) |
| DT 96 Chris Norwell (6-7, 270, So.) |
| DE 91 Derek Walker (6-5, 245, r-Fr.) |
| LB 51 Anthony Thornhill (6-1, 215, So.) |
| LB 48 Remond Willis (6-0, 220, r-Fr.) |
| LB 47 J Leman (6-3, 220, So.) |
| CB 18 Alan Ball (6-1, 175, Jr.) |
| CB 24 Charles Bailey (6-1, 195, So.) |
| FS 20 Morris Virgil (5-10, 195, Sr.) |
| SS 32 Justin Harrison (5-11, 205, So.) |
| SPECIALISTS |
| PK 13 Jason Reda (6-0, 185, So.) |
| P 37 Steve Weatherford (6-4, 205, Sr.) |

| | |
|-----------|--------------------------------------|
| PK | 13 Jason Reda (6-0, 185, So.) |
| P | 37 Steve Weatherford (6-4, 205, Sr.) |

INDIANA
HOOSIERS


2004 Record: 3-8 overall, 1-7 Big Ten
 Official athletic Web site: www.iuhoosiers.com

If November losses to Illinois and Penn State didn't do Gerry DiNardo in, a 63-24 loss at Purdue was more than the Hoosiers could stomach between disappointing basketball seasons.

Thus, DiNardo was dismissed, and Miami of Ohio coach Terry Hoeppner was hired. After 19 seasons at Miami, including a 48-24, six-year stint as head coach, Hoeppner will see that he had better players in the Mid-American Conference at several positions than he does now in Bloomington.

Indiana returns 13 starters—five on offense, seven on defense and a punter—from a 3-8 team that shared last place with Illinois, won just once after Sept. 11 and surrendered 114 points to Kentucky and Purdue.

All five offensive linemen are back: junior Chris Mangiero (6-1, 310 pounds) at center, seniors Adam Hines (6-2, 315) and Brandon Hatcher (6-2, 305) at guard, and senior Isaac Sowells (6-3, 330) and junior Justin Frye (6-5, 310) at tackle. After that, it's time for nametags.

The skill positions should feature several 2004 backups. Sophomore Blake Powers replaces Matt LoVecchio at quarterback. Powers was nine-for-22 passing last year with two interceptions. And senior Chris Taylor takes over for BenJarvus Green-Ellis at tailback. Taylor rushed for 329 yards and three scores last year.

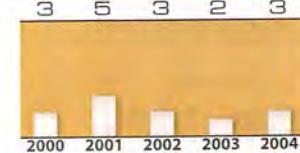
The defense returns senior Victor Adeyanju (6-4, 270) and junior Kenny Kendal (6-3, 260) at end, senior Kyle Killion and junior Jake Powers at linebacker, with sophomore Tracy Porter, senior Buster Larkins and junior Will Meyers back at safety.

Porter had 115 yards and a touchdown on three interception returns as a freshman. But the Hoosiers were the only team in the league to allow more than 30 points (31.2) and 450 yards (453.2) per contest last season.

Indiana's best weapon could be junior kick returner Lance Bennett (5-6, 167), who averaged 30 yards per runback. Unfortunately, Bennett had too many chances.

The Hoosiers could be 3-0 after a game at Central Michigan and visits from Nicholls State and Kentucky. The last six opponents—Iowa, Ohio State, Michigan State, Minnesota, Michigan and Purdue—should make Hoeppner understand, if he doesn't already, how big his challenge is.

FIVE-YEAR WINS TREND



2005 SCHEDULE

| DATE | OPPONENT | '04 RESULT |
|-------|-------------------|------------|
| S. 2 | @CENTRAL MICHIGAN | 41-10 |
| S. 10 | Nicholls State | |
| S. 17 | Kentucky | 32-51 |
| O. 1 | @WISCONSIN | 22-26 |
| O. 8 | Illinois | 7-30 |
| O. 15 | @IOWA | 20-30 |
| O. 22 | Ohio State | 7-30 |
| O. 29 | @MICHIGAN STATE | 30-21 |
| N. 5 | Minnesota | 14-35 |
| N. 12 | @MICHIGAN | 24-63 |
| N. 19 | Purdue | |

Head coach: Terry Hoeppner,

1st Year (0-0)

Career Record: 48-24

Stadium: Memorial Stadium

Turf: Artificial

Capacity: 52,354

PROJECTED STARTERS

| |
|---|
| Starters returning: 13 |
| Lettermen returning/lost: 58/24 |
| OFFENSE |
| QB 14 Blake Powers (6-4, 228, So.) |
| RB 30 Chris Taylor (6-0, 220, Sr.) |
| LT 76 Isaac Sowells (6-3, 330, Sr.) |
| LG 75 Adam Hines (6-2, 315, Sr.) |
| C 74 Chris Mangiero (6-1, 310, Jr.) |
| RG 73 Brandon Hatcher (6-2, 305, Sr.) |
| RT 60 Justin Frye (6-5, 310, Jr.) |
| TE 89 Chris Rudanovic (6-4, 265, Jr.) |
| WR 1 Jahkeen Gilmore (6-0, 214, Sr.) |
| WR 81 Rhett Kleinschmidt (6-2, 198, Sr.) |
| WR 2 Marcus Thigpen (5-9, 175, r-Fr.) |
| DEFENSE |
| DE 94 Victor Adeyanju (6-4, 270, Sr.) |
| DT 55 Russ Richardson (6-0, 260, Sr.) |
| DT 77 Kenny Love Jr. (6-2, 290, r-Fr.) |
| DE 92 Kenny Kendal (6-3, 260, Jr.) |
| LB 43 Kyle Killion (6-0, 230, Sr.) |
| LB 46 Jake Powers (6-1, 225, Jr.) |
| LB 34 John Pannozzo (5-11, 230, Jr.) |
| LCB 36 Tracy Porter (5-11, 178, So.) |
| RCB 8 Buster Larkins (5-11, 185, Sr.) |
| FS 39 Will Meyers (5-11, 205, Sr.) |
| SS 4 Will Lumpkin (5-10, 205, Sr.) |
| SPECIALISTS |
| PK 44 Austin Starr (6-2, 188, r-Fr.) |
| P 44 Tyson Beattie (6-2, 206, Jr.) |

XII

BIG 12 CONFERENCE

BIG 12 CONFERENCE PREDICTED ORDER OF FINISH:

NORTH

p.59

p.61

p.63

p.64

p.65

p.65

p.65



SOUTH

Games to watch:

>> Oklahoma at Texas, Oct. 8

The South Division, Big 12 and Rose Bowl could be on the line.

>> Texas Tech at Nebraska, Oct. 8

The Cornhuskers' defense wears a 70-point scar.

But can the Blackshirts stop this offense?

>> Texas at Texas A&M, Nov. 25

The Aggies could spoil the Longhorns' postseason plans.

Official conference website:
www.big12sports.com

Street & Smith's ALL-CONFERENCE

Offense

| | |
|----|---------------------------------|
| QB | Vince Young, Jr., Texas |
| RB | Adrian Peterson, So., Oklahoma |
| RB | Taurean Henderson, Sr., T. Tech |
| DL | Jonathan Scott, Sr., Texas |
| DL | Jeromey Clary, Sr., Kansas St. |
| DL | Tony Palmer, Sr., Missouri |
| DL | Devin Joseph, Sr., Oklahoma |
| DL | Aaron Brant, Jr., Iowa State |
| WR | Todd Blythe, So., Iowa State |
| WR | Jarrett Hicks, Jr., Texas Tech |
| TE | David Thomas, Sr., Texas |
| PK | Meson Crosby, Jr., Colorado |

Defense

| | |
|----|-------------------------------|
| DL | Nick Leaders, Sr., Iowa State |
| DL | Rodrique Wright, Sr., Texas |
| DL | Dusty Dvoracek, Sr., Oklahoma |
| DL | Larry Birdine, Jr., Oklahoma |
| LB | Nick Reid, Sr., Kansas |
| LB | Jordon Dizon, So., Colorado |
| LB | Aaron Herrls, Sr., Texas |
| DB | Charles Gordon, Jr., Kansas |
| DB | Michael Huff, Sr., Texas |
| DB | Daniel Bullock, Sr., Nebraska |
| DB | Jason Simpson, Sr., Missouri |
| P | Daniel Sepulveda, Jr., Baylor |



TODD BLYTHE, IOWA STATE

North and South lose a ton of talent to the NFL, but national-title contender Texas stays forever Young

By Blair Kerkhoff
The Kansas City Star

The Big 12 likes to think its South Division has been the toughest collection of hombres over the last few years, but that claim has gotten trashed in each of the past two postseasons.

Oklahoma has fallen in the last two BCS title games, and no outcome in the Bob Stoops era was more embarrassing than the 55-19 pasting by Southern California in the Orange Bowl last season.

With 10 starters taken in the NFL Draft, it's something of a rebuilding season at Oklahoma, winners of four of the last five division titles. But the Sooners don't play for second place, and future pros have been waiting behind the current ones.

Still, Texas is the South and conference favorite. The Longhorns lost top talent in running back Cedric Benson and linebacker Derrick Johnson, but they're returning the league's best quarterback in Vince Young.

Texas A&M and Texas Tech should continue to knock on the door, and it would be no shock if either won the division.

Rating the recruits

1. Nebraska

Assistant coach John Blake is a recruiting star.

2. Oklahoma

Could be Stoops' best class ever, heavy on defensive stars.

3. Texas A&M

Big catch is TE Martellus Bennett.

4. Texas

Low on numbers (15) and Longhorns lost some big names on Signing Day.

5. Kansas State

Return to upper echelon begins with juco-heavy class.

6. Texas Tech

All but two in class of 21 from Texas.

7. Missouri

Post-Brad Smith-era signee in Chase Daniel.

8. Oklahoma State

Mammoth DE Ryan McBean is the best of Bundy's first effort.

9. Kansas

Kerry Meier, brother of K-State QB Dylan Meier, signs with Jayhawks.

10. Iowa State

Florida schools can't get all the Floridians. Cyclones signed five.

11. Baylor

The long road to respectability continues with Guy Morris's best class.

12. Colorado

Gary Barnett says he used restrictions to his advantage. We'll see.

Who wins the North? Any team can.

Predicting the division is folly, just as it was last year. Halfway through the league race, Colorado and Iowa State were tied for last. They wound up tied for first, with the Buffs getting to the title game by virtue of the regular-season victory.

The Buffs return the most starters, the Cyclones return their top skill players, Nebraska might have found a quarterback this spring, Kansas State has come too far to regress, Missouri has the division's top quarterback and Kansas could easily have represented the North last season with a break or two.

There, we just made a case for all six.

Here's a key: The inside track belongs to any North team that defeats a South team besides Baylor. It didn't happen last year, as the North went a collective 0-16, including the Buffs' loss to Oklahoma in the Big 12 title game.

Rating the players

Fastest receiver **Jarrett Hicks, Texas Tech**

Best hands **Todd Blythe, WR, Iowa State**

Best passing QB **Dylan Meier, Kansas State**

Best running QB **Vince Young, Texas**

Most elusive RB **Adrian Peterson, Oklahoma**

Best instincts **Charles Gordon, CB, Kansas**

Best athlete **Martellus Bennett, TE, Texas A&M**

Best under pressure **Daniel Sepulveda, P, Baylor**

Top NFL prospect **Rodrique Wright, OT, Texas**

Top impact freshman **DeMarcus Granger, DT, Oklahoma**

Hardest hitter **Dusty Dvoracek, DE, Oklahoma**

Rating the coaches

Best strategist **Gary Barnett, Colorado**

Best recruiter **Bob Stoops, Oklahoma**

Coach on the spot **Gary Pinkel, Missouri**

Don't be surprised if ...

Texas ends a five-year losing streak to Oklahoma. The Longhorns have the established quarterback—and it's about time, isn't it?

One man's opinion

"I don't call it a trend. I saw last season as circumstantial. It's like erosion on the beach. If you wait long enough it's going to change. It's going to be different."

—Texas coach Mack Brown on the South Division's 18-3 record vs. the North last year

COLORADO

BUFFALOES

BOULDER, COLO.

2004 Record: 8-5 overall, 4-4 Big 12 (beat UTEP in the Houston Bowl, 33-28)

Stadium: Folsom Field

Official athletic Web site: www.cubuffs.com

Turf: Grass

Capacity: 53,750



FIVE-YEAR WINS TREND



PRESEASON RANK:

1

Head coach: Gary Barnett, 7th Year (42-33) Career Record: 85-89-2

Assistant coaches: Shawn Watson (off. coord./QBs/WRs), Dave Borbely (off. line), Shawn Simms (RBs), John Wristen (TEs), Brian Cabral (asst. head coach/ILBs), Mike Hankwitz (def. coord./OLBs), Craig Bray (secondary), William Inge (def. line), Darian Hagan (off. asst.)

Buffs look to make all of their news on the football field this season

Colorado's 2004 season qualified as amazing in every possible way. And it was so because of the soap opera that unfolded in the eight months before the opening kickoff.

A quick review as one unbelievable story followed another:

- A Denver adult-entertainment operator said he provided strippers for recruiting parties.

- Boulder police released a statement from a woman who said she was sexually assaulted at a recruiting party in 2001.

- Former Buffs kicker Katie Hnida told *Sports Illustrated* she was raped by another football player.

- Coach Gary Barnett lost his cool and told reporters Hnida was a bad kicker. "She was awful," he said. "Katie was a girl, and not only was she a girl, she was terrible."

- A day later, Barnett appeared on CNN's "Larry King Live" to explain his comments, but it was too late. The next day, he was placed on paid administrative leave for the comments he made about Hnida and in a police report that said he'd support his player in a he-said, she-said assault case. Assistant head coach Brian Cabral took over the program for spring practice while Barnett served a suspension.

OK, kids, those of you who didn't transfer out, go out and play championship-level football.

They did. And just to keep things interesting, Colorado didn't win the North Division in the usual manner. The Buffs didn't grab the lead early or jockey for position with other contenders.

No, Colorado sank directly to the bottom, losing four of its first five conference games and stood dead last in the North with three games remaining.

But in this woeful division, nobody was out of the title picture the first week of November, and back came Colorado, winning its final three games and capping the run with a sweet triumph at Nebraska.

Even then, the championship wasn't assured. The Buffs needed Missouri to upset Iowa State in Ames a day later. That game went to overtime and a Tigers interception in the end zone sealed the deal for Colorado.

So, not until the final play of the league's regular season did the Buffs ever stand in first place, but there they were, headed to the league title game in one of the most tumultuous seasons imaginable.

"What it all came down to is what happened with your team between Aug. 5 and Dec. 4 is all that mattered," Barnett recalls.

Not all issues are resolved—Barnett faces accusations of a slush fund collected from football camp fees—and there was plenty of devastation left in the wake of the scandal. The Colorado president resigned. So did the athletic director, Dick Tharp, who was given the game ball after the Nebraska victory.

But in April, a federal judge threw out a lawsuit at the heart of the recruiting scandal, ruling that the school wasn't responsible for the actions of players and recruits at the recruiting party. That was bad news for women's rights groups, good news for the football program.

Here's some more good news for the Buffs: They should repeat as North winners.

In a division that should continue to struggle, Colorado is the one program with more answers than questions.

Experience? From the only team in the North to reach eight victories, including the postseason, Colorado returns 17 starters, including the kickers.

Quarterback? Joel Klatt bids to become the program's first three-year starter since Kordell Stewart. Klatt was the MVP of the Houston Bowl victory over Texas-El Paso, but there is plenty of room for improvement, starting with his 15-to-9 touchdown/interception ratio. Top competition is provided by junior James Cox, who got one start last season when Klatt's production fell. Colorado wants just that—competition—at the position.

"I'd be lying if I said it didn't motivate me during the offseason to work hard to solidify the spot," Klatt says.

Skill positions? The biggest loss is running back Bobby Purify, who was a wonder when he wasn't injured, which was about half of his career. Lawrence Vickers will be the V-back. "V" is for versatile, and Vickers will alternate between I-back and fullback. Colorado is looking to improve on 122 rushing yards per game.

Wide receiver isn't a team strength, but it's a capable unit with Evan Judge and Blake Mackey, who combined for 53 receptions last season. Colorado has top-notch tight ends in Quinn Syniewski,



LAWRENCE VICKERS, VB

2005 SCHEDULE

| DATE | OPPONENT | '04 RESULT |
|-------|------------------|------------|
| S. 3 | Colorado State | 27-24 |
| S. 10 | New Mexico State | |
| S. 24 | @MIAMI (FL) | |
| O. 1 | @OKLAHOMA STATE | 14-42 |
| O. 8 | Texas A&M | 26-29 (OT) |
| O. 15 | @TEXAS | 7-31 |
| O. 22 | Kansas | 30-21 |
| O. 29 | @KANSAS STATE | 38-31 |
| N. 5 | Missouri | 9-17 |
| N. 12 | @IOWA STATE | 19-14 |
| N. 25 | Nebraska | 26-20 |

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 17
Lettermen returning/lost: 50/15

OFFENSE

| | |
|----|-------------------------------------|
| QB | 14 Joel Klatt (6-1, 210, Sr.) |
| FB | 30 Paul Creighton (6-5, 250, Jr.) |
| VB | 17 Lawrence Vickers (6-2, 235, Sr.) |
| ST | 77 Tyler Polumbus (6-8, 280, So.) |
| SG | 63 Jack Tipton (6-3, 285, Jr.) |
| C | 58 Mark Fenton (6-4, 295, Jr.) |
| TG | 66 Brian Daniels (6-5, 300, Jr.) |
| TT | 73 Clint O'Neal (6-6, 300, Sr.) |
| TE | 89 Joe Klopfenstein (6-6, 245, Sr.) |
| WR | 82 Evan Judge (6-2, 215, Sr.) |
| WR | 9 Blake Mackey (6-3, 200, Jr.) |

DEFENSE

| | |
|-----|---|
| DE | 53 Abraham Wright (6-3, 240, Jr.) |
| NT | 93 Vaka Manupana (6-1, 290, Sr.) |
| DT | 82 James Garee (6-6, 275, Sr.) |
| DE | 51 Alex Ligon (6-3, 250, Jr.) |
| OLB | 27 Brian Iwu (6-0, 225, Sr.) |
| ILB | 49 Thaddeus Washington (5-11, 240, Jr.) |
| ILB | 44 Jordon Dizon (6-0, 215, So.) |
| CB | 22 Lorenzo Sims Jr. (5-11, 185, Jr.) |
| CB | 26 Terrence Wheatley (5-10, 170, Jr.) |
| FS | 9 Tom Hubbard (605, 220, Sr.) |
| SS | 18 Dominique Brooks (6-1, 200, Jr.) |

SPECIALISTS

| | |
|----|---------------------------------|
| PK | 16 Mason Crosby (6-2, 210, Jr.) |
| P | 29 John Torp (6-2, 205, Sr.) |

RATING THE RECRUITS

| | |
|----|---|
| 1. | Alvin Barnett, WR |
| 2. | Maurice Greer, RB |
| 3. | The state of Colorado's top prospect. |
| 4. | Terry Washington, CB |
| 5. | Marcus Burton, LB |
| | CU didn't need LBs, but couldn't pass on his speed. |
| | Maurice Lucas, DE |
| | Barnett: He can be as good as any Buff DE ever. |



2004 TEAM STATS

| TEAM STATISTICS | COLORADO | OPP |
|----------------------|------------|------------|
| SCORING | 271 | 304 |
| Points Per Game | 22.6 | 25.3 |
| FIRST DOWNS | 202 | 262 |
| Rushing | 72 | 106 |
| Passing | 118 | 138 |
| Penalty | 12 | 18 |
| RUSHING YARDAGE | 1465 | 2064 |
| Yards gained rushing | 1703 | 2377 |
| Yards lost rushing | 238 | 313 |
| Rushing Attempts | 402 | 513 |
| Average Per Rush | 3.64 | 4.02 |
| Average Per Game | 122.1 | 172.0 |
| PASSING YARDAGE | 2462 | 3055 |
| Att-Cmp-Int | 387-224-18 | 410-240-14 |
| Average Per Pass | 6.36 | 7.45 |
| Average Per Catch | 11.0 | 12.7 |
| Average Per Game | 205.2 | 254.6 |
| TOTAL OFFENSE | 3927 | 5119 |
| Total Plays | 789 | 923 |
| Average Per Play | 4.98 | 5.55 |
| Average Per Game | 327.3 | 426.6 |
| KICK RETURNS: #-YDS | 31-626 | 17-319 |
| PUNT RETURNS: #-YDS | 39-306 | 40-266 |
| INT RETURNS: #-YDS | 14-227 | 18-227 |
| KICK RETURN AVERAGE | 20.2 | 18.8 |
| PUNT RETURN AVERAGE | 7.8 | 6.7 |
| INT RETURN AVERAGE | 16.2 | 12.6 |
| FUMBLES-LOST | 18-8 | 20-10 |
| PENALTIES-YARDS | 94/706 | 74/564 |
| PUNTS-YARDS | 68-3151 | 68-2739 |
| Average Per Punt | 46.3 | 40.3 |
| Net punt average | 42.4 | 35.8 |
| TIME OF POSS./GAME | 28:19 | 31:41 |
| 3RD-DOWN CONV. | 59/172 | 92/205 |
| 3rd-Down Pct | 34.3 | 44.9 |
| 4TH-DOWN CONV. | 3-11 | 8/15 |
| 4th-Down Pct | 27.3 | 53.3 |
| SACKS BY-YARDS | 20-117 | 31/200 |
| MISC YARDS | 41 | 6 |
| TOUCHDOWNS SCORED | 25 | 36 |
| FIELD GOALS-ATTEMPTS | 19/4 | 11/9 |

SCORE BY QTRS 1st 2nd 3rd 4th OT Total

| Colorado | 78 | 62 | 60 | 71 | 0 | 271 |
|----------|----|----|----|-----|---|-----|
| Opponent | 56 | 86 | 58 | 101 | 3 | 304 |

2004 INDIVIDUAL STATS
OFFENSE

| PASSING | | | | | | |
|-------------------|-------------|----------|------|-------|-------|------|
| Joel Klatt | | | | | | |
| GP | Att-Cmp-Int | Pct. | Yds. | TD | | |
| 12 | 334-192-15 | 57.5 | 2065 | 9 | | |
| James Cox | | | | | | |
| GP | Att-Cmp-Int | Pct. | Yds. | TD | | |
| 5 | 49-28-3 | 57.1 | 330 | 2 | | |
| RUSHING | | | | | | |
| GP | Att. | Net Avg. | TD | Avg/G | | |
| Bobby Purify | 12 | 209 | 1017 | 4.9 | 9 | 84.8 |
| Lawrence Vickers | 12 | 60 | 248 | 4.1 | 2 | 20.7 |
| Daniel Jolly | 12 | 23 | 62 | 2.7 | 0 | 5.2 |
| RECEIVING | | | | | | |
| GP | No. | Yds. | Avg. | TD | Avg/G | |
| Evan Judge | 11 | 29 | 336 | 12.5 | 3 | 30.5 |
| Ron Monteith | 11 | 28 | 314 | 11.2 | 1 | 28.5 |
| Joe Klopfenstein | 12 | 28 | 284 | 10.1 | 4 | 23.7 |

DEFENSE

| TACKLES | | | | |
|----------------------|------|------|-------|----|
| GP | Solo | Ast. | Total | |
| Brian Iwuh | 12 | 74 | 24 | 98 |
| Thaddeus Washington | 12 | 54 | 39 | 93 |
| Jordon Dizon | 12 | 51 | 31 | 82 |
| SACKS | | | | |
| GP | No. | Yds. | Avg. | |
| Matt McChesney | 12 | 7.0 | 38 | |
| Alex Ligon | 12 | 4.5 | 42 | |
| Abraham Wright | 12 | 4.5 | 30 | |
| INTERCEPTIONS | | | | |
| No. | Yds. | Avg. | TD | |
| Lorenzo Sims | 5 | 53 | 10.6 | 0 |
| Terrence Wheatley | 4 | 63 | 15.8 | 1 |
| Thaddeus Washington | 2 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 |

who was granted a sixth year of eligibility, and Joe Klopfenstein.

Defense? Ten starters return, but linebacker is the strongest position with juniors Thaddeus Washington and Chris Hollis, senior Akarika Dawn and sophomores Jordon Dizon and Joe Sanders. Washington ranked second on the team in tackles with 93, while Dizon was third (82) and Dawn fifth (71). Dizon was named the league's top freshman defensive player by league media and coaches.

Colorado is looking for new starting tackles, and although the secondary returns mostly intact, the group gave up 254 passing yards per game and 16 touchdowns. The big question mark is safety J.J. Billingsley, who was suspended indefinitely for academic reasons.

Special teams? Colorado might have the nation's best legs in punter John "Torpedo" Torp, who averaged 42.7 yards per punt, and kicker Mason Crosby, who booted a 54-yarder against UTEP and didn't miss from 15 attempts inside the 40.

Perhaps the best stat: Colorado opponents started 80 of 159 drives inside the 20 thanks to accurate punting and deep kicking.

Such a veteran team is the favorite to capture its fourth division title in five years, but will the program realize predictions of dire consequences in the post-scandal era? Recruiting rules were changed because of Colorado, and the program self-imposed even tighter restrictions on itself.

Barnett says the program used the new guidelines, such as one overnight stay on visits, to its advantage.

"We weren't going to get shackled by it," Barnett says.

Colorado got to know these prospects and their parents better than any in Barnett's career.

"We had a class of student-athletes who chose to come to Colorado," Barnett says. "None of them were talked into it; they all had choices. A lot of recruits did their homework before coming to Colorado."

The Buffs signed 25, and the class generally wasn't rated among the nation's top 40. The top-ranked prospect was running back Maurice Greer, a Denver product who rushed for 5,400 yards and 98 touchdowns in his career.

But the theme of this year's class was to find players who can help the Buffs match up physically with league bullies Oklahoma and Texas. The Longhorns thumped Colorado 31-7 in Boulder, and the Sooners manhandled the Buffs 42-3 in the Big 12 Championship Game.

"Those are the two programs we need to close the gap on," Barnett says. "This recruiting class was a step in that direction."

The best story of the class is James Lewis of Venice High School in Los Angeles. He played wide receiver, safety and kick returner and was named Los Angeles City Player of the Year in 2003. Lewis didn't go to school as a sophomore to care for his mother, who had cancer. He couldn't complete his degree requirements to graduate with his high school class in 2004, so he went to live with relatives in Texas but didn't get to play last season.

"He's a tremendous athlete and a great story as well," Barnett says.

Great stories are always welcome at Colorado. ■■■

IN PROFILE ...
JOEL KLATT

Ex-baseball player showed grace during turbulent 2004 season as Colorado QB

Last October, Joel Klatt found himself in an unusual place: on the team bench, watching his Colorado teammates take the field against Iowa State. Instead of sulking, Klatt, then a junior quarterback, relaxed. Finally, the pressure was off.

He returned for the second half against the Cyclones, helping Colorado to a 19-14 win. Coaches and teammates say Klatt displayed impeccable leadership that day and throughout a controversy-filled season for the program.

"He went through some humbling, but he really found himself after that," says Shawn Watson, Colorado's offensive coordinator. "That's the way Joel's always been. He listens, he accepts criticism and he works at making himself and the whole team better."

Overall, the Buffaloes posted an 8-5 record last year, including an appearance in the Big 12 Championship Game and a win in the team's bowl appearance.

Klatt, a former San Diego Padres prospect who came to Colorado as a walk-on, must provide steady leadership and coax strong performances out of a young receiving corps this season if the Buffaloes are to overcome yet another long offseason. (Lingering recruiting scandals and

investigations led to the departures of the school's chancellor, president and athletic director.)

"As good as he is throwing the ball, he provides just as many intangibles," says Dave Lapham, an analyst on Fox Sports Net's Big 12 games. "There is nobody in the country that has more credibility with his teammates than Klatt does."

On the field, Klatt must adapt to an inexperienced receiving corps. Prime evidence: His total yardage slipped from a stellar sophomore campaign, when he had four veteran wideouts who didn't return in 2004. Last season he threw just nine TD passes, compared with 15 interceptions. In the spring game, Klatt had seven passes dropped.

His past life as a baseball prospect helps Klatt keep setbacks in perspective.

"Because the season is so long and you have to deal with failure, baseball teaches you to keep things on an even keel," Klatt says. "That has helped me a lot as a football player."

And off the field?

Klatt says the headlines have obscured a program rich in character and tradition.

Once people get close to the Colorado players and coaches, "a lot of the perceptions are squashed." And, Klatt says, a Big 12 title this season would only serve to reinforce the notion of Colorado football both on and off the field.

—Erik Spanberg

NEBRASKA

CORNHUSKERS



LINCOLN, NEB.

2004 Record: 5-6 overall, 3-5 Big 12

Stadium: Memorial Stadium

Official athletic Web site: www.huskers.com

Turf: Artificial

Capacity: 73,918



FIVE-YEAR WINS TREND

| | | | | |
|------|------|------|------|------|
| 10 | 11 | 7 | 10 | 5 |
| 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 |

2

Head coach: Bill Callahan, 2nd Year (5-6) Career Record: 5-6

Assistant coaches: Kevin Cosgrove (def. coord./LBs), Jay Norvell (off. coord./QBs), John Blake (def. line), Bill Busch (safeties/special teams coord.), Scott Downing (TEs/specialists/recruiting coord.), Phil Elmassian (CBs), Ted Gilmore (WRs), Randy Jordan (RBs), Dennis Wagner (off. line)



DANIEL BULLOCKS, S

Callahan turns to Kansas juco ranks for engineer to drive his West Coast attack

Say this about Nebraska coach Bill Callahan: He knows how to make an impression. The two big moments entering the 2005 season came in February and April with the revelation of a highly regarded recruiting class and a spring game that had the Big Red masses buzzing.

Of course, Nebraska needed some positive energy after a 2004 season that sank to depths unseen in four decades. The Cornhuskers finished 5-6, their first losing record since 1961. Also gone was the amazing bowl streak. Nebraska had been to the postseason every year since 1969.

It all happened as Callahan changed the offensive structure from time-tested option to new-wave West Coast offense, but the program just didn't have the players to make it happen.

Soon after the loss that cinched turning the Huskers into losers—to Colorado at home to end the season—Callahan went to work on fixing the program.

Shaking up the roster was the first order of business, and to that end Nebraska welcomed 31 newcomers, including 19 freshmen and 12 junior-college transfers. Every position was bolstered, and Nebraska will likely weave more new faces into the two-deep than any team in the Big 12 and perhaps the nation.

The most important is quarterback Zac Taylor.

It wasn't until late last season, while Taylor was guiding Butler County (Kan.) Community College to the juco national title game, that the junior QB appeared on the Nebraska radar. Taylor, who had spent his freshman season as a reserve at Wake Forest, figured he'd end up at Marshall.

But the Cornhuskers desperately sought a position upgrade after 2004 starter Joe Dailey confirmed the worst fears. Recruited as an option quarterback under Frank Solich, Dailey had trouble grasping the complexities of the West Coast. He completed 49 percent of his passes, with 17 touchdowns and 19 interceptions. He transferred out of the program in the spring.

A change was needed, and Nebraska had already signed highly regarded prospect Harrison Beck of Clearwater, Fla. But it would be unfair to ask Beck to step in immediately.

Nebraska coaches liked Taylor's strong arm and his football sense. He's the son of former Oklahoma defensive back Sherwood Taylor, who later served as an Oklahoma and Kansas State assistant coach. Taylor grew up Norman, Okla., committed to Oklahoma State but switched to Wake Forest.

"I didn't know where I'd be, major college or Division I," Taylor says of his final few weeks at Butler County. "But it worked out well."

Nebraska hopes so. Taylor could not have made a greater impression in his first public showing at the spring game. Before 63,000, he completed 20 of 27 passes for 357 yards and three touchdowns, all in the first half.

Nebraska hadn't seen a quarterback throw as well as Taylor under any circumstances since the days of Vince Ferragamo and David Humm in the 1970s. It was the kind of passing attack fans expected last season.

"Taking care of the ball, not throwing picks, that's what I need to do," Taylor says.

Callahan says he was impressed with how quickly Taylor had absorbed Butler County's offense in one season.

"We knew by watching him at Butler that he



ADAM CARRIKER, DE

2005 SCHEDULE

| DATE | OPPONENT | '04 RESULT |
|-------|--------------|------------|
| S. 3 | Maine | |
| S. 10 | Wake Forest | |
| S. 17 | Pittsburgh | 24-17 |
| O. 1 | Iowa State | 27-34 |
| O. 8 | Texas Tech | 10-70 |
| O. 15 | @Baylor | 59-27 |
| O. 22 | @Missouri | 24-3 |
| O. 29 | Oklahoma | 3-30 |
| N. 5 | @Kansas | 14-8 |
| N. 12 | Kansas State | 21-45 |
| N. 25 | @Colorado | 20-26 |

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 16
Lettermen returning/lost: 41/13

OFFENSE

| | | |
|----|----|--|
| QB | 13 | Zac Taylor (6-2, 210, Jr.) |
| FB | 41 | Dane Todd (5-10, 240, Jr.) |
| IB | 4 | Cory Ross (5-6, 195, Sr.) |
| LT | 77 | Seppo Evarayre (6-5, 330, Sr.) |
| LG | 75 | Brandon Koch (6-4, 315, Sr.) |
| C | 50 | Kurt Mann (6-4, 290, Jr.) |
| RG | 65 | Greg Austin (6-1, 295, Jr.) |
| RT | 79 | Corneilus Fiamatu-Thomas (6-5, 335, Sr.) |
| TE | 11 | Matt Herian (6-5, 240, Sr.) |
| WR | 9 | Mark LeFlore (5-11, 195, Sr.) |
| WR | 83 | Terrence Nunn (6-0, 190, So.) |

DEFENSE

| | | |
|-----|----|------------------------------------|
| DE | 44 | Jay Moore (6-4, 275, Jr.) |
| NT | 66 | Le Kevin Smith (6-2, 305, Sr.) |
| DT | 96 | Titus Adams (6-3, 300, Sr.) |
| DE | 90 | Adam Carriker (6-6, 280, Jr.) |
| SLB | 34 | Stewart Bradley (6-4, 240, Jr.) |
| MLB | 40 | Lance Brandenburgh (6-1, 230, So.) |
| WLB | 15 | Steve Octavien (6-0, 235, Jr.) |
| LCB | 2 | Cortney Gribby (5-9, 165, So.) |
| RCB | 6 | Donald DeFrands (6-0, 175, Sr.) |
| FS | 8 | Andrew Shanle (6-1, 205, Jr.) |
| SS | 14 | Daniel Bullocks (6-2, 210, Sr.) |

SPECIALISTS

| | | |
|----|----|------------------------------|
| PK | 27 | David Dyches (6-1, 180, Jr.) |
| P | 37 | Sam Koch (6-1, 230, Sr.) |

RATING THE RECRUITS

| | |
|----|--------------------|
| 1. | Zac Taylor, QB |
| 2. | Marlon Lucky, RB |
| 3. | Zackary Bowman, CB |
| 4. | Jordan Congdon, K |
| 5. | Chris Brooks, WR |



2004 TEAM STATS

| TEAM STATISTICS | NEBRASKA | OPP |
|-----------------------|------------|------------|
| SCORING | 275 | 298 |
| Points Per Game | 25.0 | 27.1 |
| FIRST DOWNS | 194 | 209 |
| Rushing | 85 | 67 |
| Passing | 96 | 127 |
| Penalty | 13 | 15 |
| RUSHING YARDAGE | 1939 | 1144 |
| Yards gained rushing | 2149 | 1476 |
| Yards lost rushing | 210 | 332 |
| Rushing Attempts | 412 | 390 |
| Average Per Rush | 4.7 | 2.9 |
| Average Per Game | 176.3 | 104.0 |
| TDS Rushing | 18 | 14 |
| PASSING YARDAGE | 2056 | 2944 |
| Att-Cmp-Int | 322-156-23 | 448-254-14 |
| Average Per Pass | 6.4 | 6.6 |
| Average Per Catch | 13.2 | 11.6 |
| Average Per Game | 186.9 | 267.6 |
| TDS Passing | 17 | 18 |
| TOTAL OFFENSE | 3995 | 4088 |
| Total Plays | 734 | 838 |
| Average Per Play | 5.4 | 4.9 |
| Average Per Game | 363.2 | 371.6 |
| KICK RETURNS: #-YDS | 44-865 | 30-742 |
| PUNT RETURNS: #-YDS | 31-181 | 24-145 |
| INT RETURNS: #-YDS | 14-352 | 23-292 |
| KICK RETURN AVERAGE | 19.7 | 24.7 |
| PUNT RETURN AVERAGE | 5.8 | 6.0 |
| INT RETURN AVERAGE | 25.1 | 12.7 |
| FUMBLES-LOST | 25-10 | 19-7 |
| PENALTIES-YARDS | 75-561 | 91-678 |
| Average Per Game | 51.0 | 61.6 |
| PUNTS-YARDS | 64-2602 | 71-2809 |
| Average Per Punt | 40.7 | 39.6 |
| Net punt average | 38.4 | 37.0 |
| TIME OF POSSESS./GAME | 27:55 | 32:05 |
| 3RD-DOWN CONV. | 47/153 | 73/195 |
| 3rd-Down Pct | 31% | 37% |
| 4TH-DOWN CONV. | 9/20 | 9/20 |
| 4th-Down Pct | 45% | 45% |
| SACKS BY-YARDS | 25-164 | 16-117 |
| MISC YARDS | 10 | 0 |
| TOUCHDOWNS SCORED | 37 | 35 |
| FIELD GOALS-ATTEMPTS | 6-12 | 18-23 |
| PAT-ATTEMPTS | 35-36 | 32-33 |
| ATTENDANCE | 466153 | 274899 |
| Games/Avg Per Game | 6/77692 | 5/54980 |
| Neutral Site Games | | 0/0 |

| SCORE BY QTRS | 1st | 2nd | 3rd | 4th | OT | Total |
|---------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|-------|
| Nebraska | 41 | 107 | 63 | 64 | — | 275 |
| Opponent | 62 | 83 | 95 | 58 | — | 298 |

2004

INDIVIDUAL STATS
OFFENSE

PASSING

| Joe Dailey | GP | Effic. | Att-Cmp-Int | Pct. | Yds. | TD | Avg/G |
|------------|--------|------------|-------------|------|------|-------|-------|
| 11 | 110.06 | 310-153-19 | 49.4 | 2025 | 17 | 184.1 | |

Beau Davis

| Beau Davis | GP | Effic. | Att-Cmp-Int | Pct. | Yds. | TD | Avg/G |
|------------|------|--------|-------------|------|------|------|-------|
| 1 | 74.9 | 8-1-4 | 12.5 | 12 | 0 | 12.0 | |

Ross Pilkington

| Ross Pilkington | GP | Effic. | Att-Cmp-Int | Pct. | Yds. | TD | Avg/G |
|-----------------|--------|--------|-------------|------|------|----|-------|
| 11 | 259.60 | 1-1-0 | | | 19 | 0 | 1.7 |

RUSHING

| Cory Ross | GP | Att. | Net Avg. | TD | Avg/G | |
|-----------------|-----|------|----------|-----|-------|------|
| 11 | 207 | 1102 | 5.3 | 6 | 100.2 | |
| Brandon Jackson | 10 | 85 | 390 | 4.6 | 6 | 39.0 |
| Tierre Green | 11 | 44 | 284 | 6.5 | 2 | 25.8 |

RECEIVING

| Ross Pilkington | GP | No. | Yds. | Avg. | TD | Avg/G |
|-----------------|----|-----|------|------|------|-------|
| 11 | 27 | 337 | 12.5 | 2 | 30.6 | |
| Matt Herian | 8 | 24 | 308 | 12.8 | 3 | 38.5 |
| Cory Ross | 11 | 21 | 262 | 12.5 | 2 | 23.8 |

DEFENSE

| TACKLES | GP | Solo | Ast. | Total |
|-----------------|----|------|------|-------|
| Barrett Ruud | 11 | 86 | 57 | 143 |
| Stewart Bradley | 11 | 38 | 29 | 67 |
| Josh Bullocks | 11 | 43 | 20 | 63 |

SACKS

| Benard Thomas | GP | No. | Yds. |
|----------------|----|-----|------|
| Adam Carricker | 10 | 3.0 | 18 |
| Barrett Ruud | 11 | 3.0 | 7 |

INTERCEPTIONS

| Daniel Bullocks | No. | Yds. | Avg. | TD |
|-------------------|-----|------|------|----|
| Fabian Washington | 3 | 23 | 7.7 | 0 |
| Ira Cooper | 2 | 95 | 47.5 | 0 |

would be able to come in, adjust and do the things we wanted him to do rather quickly," Callahan says. "He's a smart guy and he prepares well. That normally leads to good production."

And, brother, do the Huskers need good production. Last season, Nebraska turned in its worst defensive statistics since 1948 by yielding 27 points and 379 yards per game. And this from a defense that sent cornerback Fabian Washington, linebacker Barrett Ruud and free safety Josh Bullocks into the early rounds of the NFL Draft.

How did that happen? The offense was so inefficient, the 'Huskers ran 60 fewer plays than the next-worst Big 12 team in that category, and 210 fewer plays than league-leader Texas Tech. The defense was on the field far too long.

But is there enough around the quarterback for Nebraska to make a push to the top of the North?

Maybe. Five starters return on offense, and five on defense. Among the playmakers are tailback Cory Ross, who rushed for 1,102 yards during a mostly injury-plagued 2004 season. He also caught 21 passes. In his breakout game, the 5-6 Ross rushed for 194 yards on 19 carries against Missouri. He was the only running back to top 100 yards against Oklahoma during the regular season.

The other half of the Bullocks twins, Daniel, returns after brother Josh turned pro a year early, getting selected early in the second round by New Orleans. Daniel, a strong safety, is the lone returning starter in the secondary, and he's a good one. He led Nebraska with five interceptions.

The defensive line is the team's known strength. Tackles Le Kevin Smith and Titus Adams make up the division's best interior defense. Both seniors tip the scales at around 300 pounds and helped hold opponents to 2.9 yards per carry last season.

Also back on the defensive line is defensive end Adam Carricker. Much was expected from the 6-6, 280-pound Carricker, but an ankle injury suffered in the second game kept his motor from running at capacity most of last season.

IN PROFILE ...
CORY ROSS

Diminutive tailback looks for another 1,000-yard rushing season

Bill Callahan installed the pass-happy West Coast offense during his debut season at Nebraska last year, but Cory Ross didn't notice an aversion to running. What he noticed instead was an offense with a lot more variables.

"What you have to understand is that you may throw the ball 50 times one week and you may run it 50 the next one," Ross says. "It can go anywhere. It opens up your mind as a football player."

Opening up defenses is Ross's stock in trade. The 5-6, 195-pound senior running back, known as "Pork Chop" to his teammates, logged 207 carries during 2004, more than double that of any of the other Cornhusker runners. He gained a team-high 1,102 yards and finished third in reception yardage with 262.

None of which makes Ross happy, since Nebraska stumbled to a 5-6 season and spent the holidays at home. The team's 25-point scoring

Stewart Bradley is the only starter back at linebacker. Letter-winners Lance Brandenburgh, Adam Ickes and Bo Ruud, the younger brother of graduated Barrett Ruud, will compete for spots along with junior-college transfers Steve Octavien and Dontrell Moore.

The secondary was strengthened with a switch. Tierre Green, the team's third-leading rusher with 284 yards, could play one corner, with Courtney Grixby set for the other side. Freshman Zack Bowman, a juco transfer from Alaska, is expected to break through in the secondary.

Several newcomers figure to get plenty of snaps on offense, especially at the skill spots. The receiving corps of Terrence Nunn, Mark Leflore, Grant Mulkey and Isaiah Fluellen will be joined by juco transfer Frantz Hardy and freshman Chris Brooks.

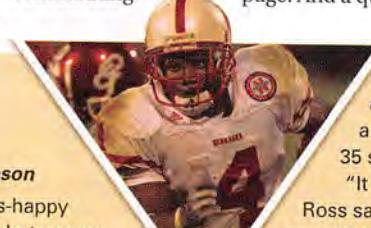
Ross's backup might end up being Marlon Lucky, a freshman from Los Angeles who rushed for 2,026 yards and 40 touchdowns last season. Lucky picked the 'Huskers over Southern Cal and Washington.

There may be too many new faces for the Cornhuskers to be a division favorite, but the incoming class puts a positive spin on the future. Some Nebraska fans believe Callahan burned up his honeymoon after last year. They would have been willing to forgive a 6-5 season, which would have kept alive the bowl streak. But a losing season only accelerated the timetable for success.

Another losing season would put the squeeze on Callahan. But nobody around the program expects that to happen. Nebraska was caught in a transition year. New system, new coaches—the third set in three years for the defense—and much confusion. This was a team that went 10-3 the previous year and popular coaches were fired.

"There might have been a little tension before," offensive tackle Seppo Evaray says. "It's always hard to lose coaches that you like and maybe you thought things were going well."

A year later, everybody seems to be on the same page. And a quarterback who seems to fit the system is a nice bonus.



average was the second lowest for a Nebraska squad during the past 35 seasons.

"It left a bitter taste in our mouths," Ross says. "Our attitude now is, 'look out.' All those teams that beat up on us last year, we're ready to pay them back."

To do it, Ross will have to turn in another strong season. He should get some relief in the backfield with a stellar crop of recruits coming to Lincoln.

Beyond that, Ross and Nebraska coaches say the players have become much more familiar, and comfortable, with Callahan's offensive strategy. They expect that newfound understanding to begin paying dividends in 2005.

"Cory Ross will be a big factor for them," says Dave Lapham, a Fox Sports Net analyst on Big 12 games. "He reminds me of [former Kansas State running back] Darren Sproles. He's tough to tackle, short, tough to see over the linemen and he accelerates really well."

—Erik Spanberg

IOWA STATE

CYCLONES

AMES, IOWA



2004 Record: 7-5 overall, 4-4 Big 12 (beat Miami (Ohio) in the Independence Bowl, 17-13)

Stadium: Jack Trice Stadium

Official athletic Web site: www.cyclones.com

Turf: Grass

Capacity: 45,814



FIVE-YEAR WINS TREND

| | | | | |
|------|------|------|------|------|
| 9 | 7 | 7 | 2 | 7 |
| 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 |

3

Head coach: Dan McCarney, 11th Year (45-72) Career Record: 45-72

Assistant coaches: Terry Allen (assoc. head coach/TEs/special teams), Tony Alford (asst. head coach/RBs), Barney Cotton (off. coord./off. line), John Skladany (def. coord./LBs), Chris Ash (secondary), DeMontie Cross (OLBs/special teams), Todd Fitch (QBs), Mike Grant (WRs), Mike Nelson (def. line)



STEVE PARIS, FS

With four bowl games in five seasons, McCarney and Cyclones building steady respect

How close did Iowa State come to its greatest accomplishment in program history? A missed 24-yard field goal.

Actually, the kick from the leg of Bret

Culbertson missed by a wide margin on a wet and cold Ames afternoon against Missouri. And to be fair, the Cyclones had more opportunities to beat the Tigers and win their first North Division championship—the first football trophy for ISU since 1912.

But Missouri prevailed in overtime and Iowa State was left with a bellyful of conflicted feelings.

Sure, losing out on a championship and not playing before a packed house in the Big 12 title game was crushing. However, the bigger picture is a bright one. Iowa State was picked to finish last in the division after getting drubbed in all eight league games in 2003. Although Colorado represented the North in the title game, the Cyclones tied for first place. The leaders sported dubious 4-4 records, but heck, the commemorative co-championship T-shirts don't have to mention that.

Along the way, the Cyclones thumped Nebraska and Kansas State. A four-game winning streak started—and a 13-game league losing streak ended—at Baylor when Iowa State drove the length of the field and punched in a final-minute touchdown from Stevie Hicks, his first score after 260 rushing attempts.

The win at K-State happened after Iowa State trailed by 14 in the fourth quarter and scored three touchdowns in the final three and a half minutes.

The season ended with a bowl victory, and no program in the North can top Iowa State's run of four postseason games in five years.

What went right? Many things that coach Dan McCarney hopes to bring into the 2005 season.

For starters, quarterback Bret Meyer won the job over incumbent Austin Flynn the previous spring and got better with each game. He capped a redshirt-freshman season by winning the Offensive MVP of the Independence Bowl.

"He can be one of the better Big 12 quarterbacks in his career," McCarney says.

Hicks rushed for 1,062 yards, becoming the program's first running back to top the 1,000-yard

mark in four years. He'll get competition from Jason Scales, a sophomore who rushed for more than 6,000 yards in his Iowa prep career.

First-year offensive coordinator and line coach Barney Cotton turned his group into one of the league's top units. Enough returns for the Cyclones to remain there with the likes of tackle Aaron Brant and guard Kory Pence. The team's most important addition is Scott Stephenson, a transfer from Minnesota who will give Seth Zehr competition at center.

Were it not for record-setting Oklahoma running back Adrian Peterson, Iowa State wide receiver Todd Blythe would have been the named the league's top offensive rookie. Blythe, who missed spring practice with ACL surgery, set a school record with nine touchdown catches.

While the offense was a work-in-progress, Iowa State's defense held firm all season. The Cyclones finished in the league's top five in every major defensive category and its rushing defense was the program's best since World War II. The defense scored six touchdowns. Only the Miami Hurricanes scored more non-offensive touchdowns than Iowa State (seven) last season.

Eight starters are back on defense and the line is the strength. Tackle Brent Curvey, end Shawn Moorehead and nose guard Nick Leaders have turned the Cyclones into a feared front. Now, there's talk of McCarney bringing back Jason Berryman, the league's top defensive freshman in 2003 who was jailed for eight months as a result of theft and assault charges.

Middle linebacker Tim Dobbins is a playmaker that won last season's Top Defensive Newcomer award in the Big 12. Three starters are back in the secondary, but the loss of Ellis Hobbs means the Cyclones must find a new defensive leader.

The kicking game remained abysmal throughout spring. In the final scrimmage, kickers missed four field goals and an extra point. The Cyclones wouldn't have needed to beat Missouri in the season finale had they made kicks earlier in the season at Colorado.

But everywhere else, Iowa State is about as set as any team in the North and another run to the top is expected this season. ■■■

2005 SCHEDULE

| DATE | OPPONENT | '04 RESULT |
|-------|----------------|------------|
| S. 3 | Illinois State | |
| S. 10 | Iowa | 10-17 |
| S. 24 | @ARMY | |
| O. 1 | @NEBRASKA | 34-27 |
| O. 8 | Baylor | 26-25 |
| O. 15 | @MISSOURI | 14-17 (OT) |
| O. 22 | Oklahoma State | 7-36 |
| O. 29 | @TEXAS A&M | 3-34 |
| N. 5 | Kansas State | 37-23 |
| N. 12 | Colorado | 14-19 |
| N. 19 | @KANSAS | 13-7 |

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 20
Lettermen returning/lost: 31/19

OFFENSE

| | | |
|----|----|---------------------------------|
| QB | 7 | Bret Meyer (6-4, 205, So.) |
| FB | 31 | Ryan Kock (6-1, 245, Jr.) |
| IB | 27 | Stevie Hicks (6-2, 215, Jr.) |
| LT | 62 | Johannes Egbers (6-3, 290, Sr.) |
| LG | 72 | Kory Pence (6-4, 315, Sr.) |
| C | 58 | Seth Zehr (6-6, 300, Jr.) |
| RG | 65 | Fabian Dodd (6-3, 310, Sr.) |
| RT | 75 | Aaron Brant (6-7, 315, Jr.) |
| TE | 16 | Walter Nickel (6-3, 235, Jr.) |
| WR | 81 | Jon Davis (6-4, 200, Jr.) |
| SE | 1 | Todd Blythe (6-5, 205, So.) |

DEFENSE

| | | |
|------|----|---------------------------------|
| DE | 29 | Korey Smith (6-4, 245, Jr.) |
| NG | 66 | Nick Leaders (6-2, 290, Sr.) |
| DT | 52 | Brent Curvey (6-0, 305, Jr.) |
| RUSH | 40 | Shawn Moorehead (6-3, 245, Jr.) |
| SLB | 25 | Nick Frere (6-1, 230, Fr.) |
| MLB | 44 | Tim Dobbins (6-2, 245, Sr.) |
| WLB | 11 | Matt Robertson (6-1, 235, Jr.) |
| LCB | 4 | DeAndre Jackson (6-0, 190, Jr.) |
| RCB | 24 | LaMarcus Hicks (6-0, 195, Sr.) |
| FS | 8 | Steve Paris (6-1, 200, Sr.) |
| SS | 9 | Nik Moser (6-0, 205, Sr.) |

SPECIALISTS

| | | |
|----|----|----------------------------------|
| PK | 37 | Bret Culbertson (6-5, 195, So.) |
| P | 24 | Troy Blankenship (6-1, 195, Sr.) |

RATING THE RECRUITS

Scott Fisher, OL

1. Juco passes the eye test at 6-7, 323 pounds.
2. Brice Beck, QB
Could have a long wait behind soph Bret Meyer.
3. Walter Nickel, TE
6-4, 235-pounder and was a top-25 JC prospect.
4. Chris Singleton, DB
Floridian originally committed to South Carolina.
5. Reggie Stephens, OL
Top high school OL signed by the Cyclones.



BRANDON ARCHER, LB

KANSAS STATE

WILDCATS

MANHATTAN, KAN.

2004 Record: 4-7 overall, 2-6 Big 12

Stadium: KSU Stadium/Wagner Field

Official athletic Web site: www.k-statesports.com

Turf: Artificial

Capacity: 50,000

PRESEASON RANK:

FIVE-YEAR WINS TREND

4

10 6 11 11 4

2000 2001 2002 2003 2004

Head coach: Bill Snyder, 17th Year (131-62-1) Career Record: 131-62-1

Assistant coaches: Joe Bob Clements (recruiting coord./def. ends), Chris Cosh (LBS), Bob Elliott (def. coord./secondary), Mo Latimore (interior def. line), Del Miller (off. coord./QBs), Matt Miller (TEs), Greg Peterson (WRs), Michael Smith (RBs), Bob Stanley (off. line)



2005 SCHEDULE

| DATE | OPPONENT | '04 RESULT |
|-------|-----------------------|------------|
| S. 3 | Florida International | |
| S. 10 | @MARSHALL | |
| S. 24 | North Texas | |
| O. 1 | @OKLAHOMA | 21-31 |
| O. 8 | Kansas | 28-31 |
| O. 15 | @TEXAS TECH | 25-35 |
| O. 22 | Texas A&M | 30-42 |
| O. 29 | Colorado | 31-38 |
| N. 5 | @IOWA STATE | 23-37 |
| N. 12 | @NEBRASKA | 45-21 |
| N. 19 | Missouri | 35-24 |

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 17
Lettermen returning/lost: 30/24

OFFENSE

| | |
|----|--------------------------------------|
| QB | 9 Dylan Meier (6-3, 210, Jr.) |
| FB | 42 Victor Mann (6-2, 255, Sr.) |
| RB | 21 Carlos Alsup (6-1, 210, Sr.) |
| LT | 73 Gerard Spearex (6-7, 290, r-Fr.) |
| LG | 72 John Hafferty (6-3, 305, So.) |
| C | 70 Ryan Schmidt (6-5, 290, r-Fr.) |
| RG | 67 Greg Wafford (6-2, 315, Jr.) |
| RT | 66 Jeromey Clary (6-7, 300, Sr.) |
| TE | 89 Rashaad Norwood (6-5, 230, So.) |
| WR | 10 Jermaine Moreira (5-11, 190, Jr.) |
| WR | 16 Yamon Figurs (6-0, 180, Jr.) |

DEFENSE

| | |
|-----|------------------------------------|
| LE | 92 Tearrius George (6-4, 250, Sr.) |
| LT | 56 Quintin Echols (6-2, 305, Jr.) |
| RT | 95 Derek Marso (6-3, 295, Sr.) |
| RE | 93 Scott Edmonds (6-4, 260, Sr.) |
| SLB | 46 Brandon Archer (6-2, 225, Jr.) |
| MLB | 45 Ted Sims (6-1, 235, Sr.) |
| WLB | 59 Matt Butler (6-2, 235, Sr.) |
| CB | 17 Maurice Porter (6-1, 185, Sr.) |
| CB | 6 Byron Garvin (5-10, 180, So.) |
| FS | 23 Jesse Tetuan (6-0, 200, Sr.) |
| SS | 24 Maurice Mack (6-0, 200, Jr.) |

SPECIALISTS

| | |
|----|-----------------------------------|
| PK | 19 Jeff Snodgrass (6-2, 200, So.) |
| P | 17 Tim Reyer (6-0, 195, So.) |

RATING THE RECRUITS

1. Kevin Lopina, QB
Dual threat originally committed to Oregon State.
2. Jonathan Lewis, DE
Was the Wildcats' top-rated high school recruit.
3. Steve Burch, DE
Juco figures to compete immediately for end job.
4. Ricky Miller, DE
Juco transfer selected K-State sight unseen.
5. Willie Williams, DT
Juco originally committed to Oklahoma State.

Snyder turns to discipline to right ship and help Wildcats forget disastrous '04

Well, that was different. After 11 seasons, Kansas State forgot how to win and wound up on the bottom of the division standings.

Actually, the Wildcats tied Kansas for last, but in a season of many firsts, the Jayhawks could crow about breaking an 11-game losing streak to their rival.

The 2-6 league record was the worst for the program since coach Bill Snyder's first season, 1989, when the Wildcats went winless in Big Eight play. Starting in 1993, there had been 11 straight bowl seasons.

Only a year earlier, K-State enjoyed the greatest moment in program history when it walloped top-ranked Oklahoma in the Big 12 Championship Game.

From there, the Wildcats unraveled. In the second game, Kansas State was manhandled by Fresno State in Manhattan. The other losses were close—all six league losses were decided in the fourth quarter—and it added up to plenty of despair.

And a resolve to not let it happen again.

"We need to have a better understanding that if you want good things to happen, you have to make them happen," Snyder says. "They don't happen because they happened in the past. We have to understand the tremendous amount of effort that's required to be successful."

Kansas State also has to recruit better. No doubt the seeds of the 2004 disaster were sown with recruiting misses over the last few seasons. The Wildcats' seemingly endless supply of impact defensive players dried up. That's why K-State went heavy on defense in this recruiting class.

But it's the returning talent that has to make the difference. Kansas State had spent the previous six seasons ranked among the nation's top six in total defense.

Along the line, end Scott Edmonds led the team with 8.5 tackles for loss and seven sacks. Tearrius George came on strong toward the end of the season and came up with three sacks from the other end spot.

Derek Marso and Quintin Echols are the leaders at the tackle spots. Newcomers who could make an impact on the line are juco-transfer

ends Steve Burch and Ricky Miller and freshman Jonathan Lewis.

Linebacker Brandon Archer returned a pair of interceptions for touchdowns in 2004. Middle linebacker Ted Sims looks to rebound from an injury-plagued junior season. Marvin Simmons, also a candidate in the middle, had an inconsistent spring. Matt Butler played all three linebacker positions last season, but was recovering from injuries during the spring.

The secondary is unsettled, and Snyder's message that no position is locked up is being heard here. Free safety Jesse Tetuan, who has started 26 straight games, was listed as a co-starter during spring practice with Marcus Watts, a special-teams player and wide receiver last season.

The quarterback job is also open. Dylan Meier made six starts, completed 58 percent of his throws and had nine touchdowns. Allen Webb started the other five games and topped 100 rushing yards twice, including a 147-yard effort against Nebraska. Also in the mix is Allan Evridge, a left-hander who was impressive in the spring but lacks game experience.

The offensive line will be retooled except for guard Jeromey Clary, who has started 26 games at tackle and has become one of the team's emotional leaders. Of the 10 players listed on the spring two-deep depth chart, eight hadn't played a down for the Wildcats.

The biggest loss is at running back. Darren Sproles departs as the school's career-leading rusher, and the four players in the mix to replace him—Carlos Alsup, Thomas Clayton, Donnie Anders and Parrish Fisher—combined for 77 yards last season. Clayton started his career at Florida State and figures to battle Alsup for the starting role.

The wide receivers are the most proven commodities on offense. Jermaine Moreira, Yamon Figurs and Davin Dennis combined for more than 1,200 yards receiving in '04. Rashaad Norwood will replace Brian Casey at tight end.

It may not be the most talented team Snyder has fielded, but no team will have endured a more demanding offseason. Offseason conditioning leading up to spring workouts started at 6 a.m., sometimes at 5:30 a.m. Some players compared it to a boot camp.

"I thought we needed to be a more disciplined football team," Snyder says. "I thought we needed to be harder-working team, a more dedicated football team." ■

MISSOURI

TIGERS

2004 Record: 5-6 overall, 3-5 Big 12
 Official athletic Web site: www.mutigers.com

For all the disappointing seasons in the Big 12 North last season, Missouri had more reason to feel elated than anyone.

The Tigers entered the year coming off a bowl season and changed with experience. It seemed time to take the next step to serious division contender. And how cool would it have been to win a first division title with the league championship game held in nearby Kansas City?

But Missouri was rocked early by a loss at Troy. Three straight victories seemed to calm the waters, but then a five-game losing streak crushed postseason hopes.

Making matters worse, quarterback Brad Smith regressed as a junior. Coach Gary Pinkel wanted to make him more of a passing threat, but Smith's passing rating was the worst of his career. And his rushing output fell by more than 900 yards. As a sophomore he went for 1,406 yards and 18 touchdowns. Last season, it was 553 and four scores. The team scored 32 touchdowns compared to 53 the previous year.

"We took a step back, and now we're trying to get back to where we need to be," Smith says.

To that end, Pinkel has come up with a new offensive scheme. Missouri will operate from a spread with Smith being the only player in the backfield at times. Think Utah.

The idea is to get Smith some space, because throughout his career he's been most dangerous when he's had the option to improvise. The offense should promote that.

Six other offensive starters return, led by wide receivers Sean Coffey and Brad Ekwerekwu. The Tigers have one of the league's better tight ends in Martin Rucker, who caught 19 passes and four touchdowns last season.

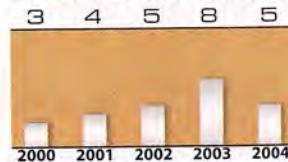
Damien Nash, a critic of last year's offense, skipped his final year for the NFL, leaving the Tigers with only Marcus Woods as an experienced running back. He gained 428 yards. Also in the mix is Tony Temple.

Guard Tony Palmer and center Adam Speiker are the lone full-timers back on the line.

The defense held up well last season, but now it's being retooled. The Tigers will build around end Xzavie Jackson, safety Jason Simpson and cornerback Marcus King.



FIVE-YEAR WINS TREND



2005 SCHEDULE

| DATE | OPPONENT | '04 RESULT |
|-------|-----------------|------------|
| S. 3 | @ARKANSAS STATE | 52-20 |
| S. 10 | New Mexico | |
| S. 17 | Troy | 14-24 |
| O. 1 | Texas | 20-28 |
| O. 8 | @OKLAHOMA STATE | 17-20 |
| O. 15 | Iowa State | 17-14 (OT) |
| O. 22 | Nebraska | 3-24 |
| O. 29 | @KANSAS | 14-31 |
| N. 5 | @COLORADO | 17-9 |
| N. 12 | Baylor | 30-10 |
| N. 19 | @KANSAS STATE | 24-35 |

Head coach: Gary Pinkel,
 5th Year (22-25)

Career Record: 95-62-3

Stadium: Memorial Stadium/Faurot Field

Turf: Artificial

Capacity: 68,349

PROJECTED STARTERS

| |
|---|
| Starters returning: 11 |
| Lettermen returning/lost: 35/25 |
| OFFENSE |
| QB 16 Brad Smith (6-2, 210, Sr.) |
| TB 20 Marcus Woods (5-8, 185, So.) |
| LT 79 Tyler Luellen (6-7, 295, So.) |
| LG 52 Tony Palmer (6-2, 325, Sr.) |
| C 77 Adam Speiker (6-3, 310, So.) |
| RG 55 Mike Cook (6-2, 320, Jr.) |
| RT 74 Joel Clinger (6-6, 310, Jr.) |
| TE 82 Martin Rucker (6-5, 245, So.) |
| WR 12 Sean Coffey (6-5, 220, Sr.) |
| WR 3 Will Franklin (6-2, 195, So.) |
| WR 86 Brad Ekwerekwu (6-3, 215, Jr.) |
| DEFENSE |
| DE 39 Brian Smith (6-3, 225, Jr.) |
| NT 81 Earl Stephens (6-4, 300, Sr.) |
| DT 30 Lorenzo Williams (6-2, 275, So.) |
| DE 48 Xzavie Jackson (6-4, 260, Jr.) |
| SLB 15 Marcus Bacon (6-2, 220, Jr.) |
| MLB 33 Dedrick Harrington (6-3, 240, Jr.) |
| WLB 40 Derrick Ming (5-11, 245, Sr.) |
| CB 7 A.J. Kincade (5-10, 190, Sr.) |
| CB 36 Marcus King (5-10, 195, Sr.) |
| FS 6 Jason Simpson (6-0, 205, Sr.) |
| SS 8 David Overstreet (6-0, 210, Jr.) |
| SPECIALISTS |
| PK 90 Adam Crossett (6-2, 215, So.) |
| P 10 Matt Hoenes (6-1, 195, Jr.) |

| |
|---------------------------------------|
| PROJECTED STARTERS |
| Starters returning: 15 |
| Lettermen returning/lost: 52/23 |
| OFFENSE |
| QB 7 Adam Barmann (6-4, 210, Jr.) |
| RB 30 Clark Green (5-11, 220, Sr.) |
| LT 55 Matt Thompson (6-4, 295, Sr.) |
| LG 77 Bob Whitaker (6-5, 317, Jr.) |
| C 72 Todd Haselhorst (6-4, 300, So.) |
| RG 74 David Ochoa (6-4, 280, Jr.) |
| RT 71 Cesar Rodriguez (6-7, 278, So.) |
| TE 85 Derek Fine (6-3, 240, So.) |
| WR 83 Mark Simmons (5-11, 185, Sr.) |
| WR 86 Marcus Henry (6-4, 195, So.) |
| WR 22 Brian Murph (6-1, 185, Jr.) |
| DEFENSE |
| DE 97 Jermial Ashley (6-5, 250, Sr.) |
| DT 90 Tim Allen (6-1, 260, Sr.) |
| DT 93 James McClinton (6-1, 290, So.) |
| DE 99 Charlton Keith (6-5, 225, Sr.) |
| OLB 7 Nick Reid (6-4, 230, Sr.) |
| ILB 45 Kevin Kane (6-1, 225, Sr.) |
| OLB 5 Banks Floodman (6-3, 230, Sr.) |
| CB 3 Charles Gordon (5-11, 177, Jr.) |
| CB 20 Theo Baines (5-11, 190, Sr.) |
| FS 23 Rodney Fowler (6-0, 195, Sr.) |
| SS 28 Aqib Talib (6-2, 180, Jr.-Fr.) |
| SPECIALISTS |
| PK 39 Scott Webb (5-11, 180, So.) |
| P 15 Kyle Tucker (6-2, 205, So.) |

KANSAS

JAYHAWKS



2004 Record: 4-7 overall, 2-6 Big 12
 Official athletic Web site: www.kuathletics.com

Was it a comment on the weakness of the division, or does Kansas coach Mark Mangino have an especially good feeling about his team when asked to assess the division race?

"Do not count us out," Mangino says defiantly.

Nobody gets counted out in the Big 12, and the Jayhawks showed they could play with anybody on their schedule in 2004 during a 4-7 season. Kansas had fourth-quarter leads against Northwestern and Texas Tech, and led Texas by 10 points with just over four minutes remaining.

The Jayhawks were that close to competing for the division title and a second straight bowl game.

Fifteen returning starters support Mangino's confidence. But Kansas has a quarterback issue to settle.

The three contenders all had positive moments last year. Adam Barmann started the first eight games, throwing for 1,427 yards and 12 touchdowns before a shoulder injury ended his season.

Jason Swanson provided the season's signature play, a 31-yard touchdown strike to Mark Simmons that gave the Jayhawks a victory over Kansas State.

Brian Luke was the starting QB in the near-miss loss to Texas and the season-ending victory over Missouri. Spring practice didn't settle the matter.

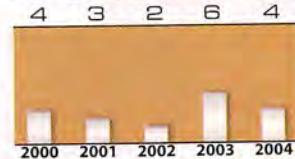
The backfield took a hit when running back John Randle was kicked off the team, but Kansas has plenty of talent still on board with Clark Green and Gary Green. Simmons is back at wide receiver, but he's the only player returning who caught more than 10 passes last season. Four starters return on the offensive line.

The Jayhawks had their best defense in a decade last season. The linebacking trio of Banks Floodman, Nick Reid and Kevin Kane is one of the Big 12's best.

The team's top player, Charles Gordon, has settled in a cornerback after doubling up as a wide receiver/corner earlier in his career. He led the nation with seven interceptions last season and often shut down the opposing team's top receiver. Gordon could become the program's first consensus All-American since quarterback David Jaynes in 1973.

"Our defense is going to be pretty darn good," Mangino says. "It's quick, it's fast, it's smart, it's tough, it's physical."

FIVE-YEAR WINS TREND



2005 SCHEDULE

| DATE | OPPONENT | '04 RESULT |
|-------|-------------------|------------|
| S. 3 | Florida Atlantic | |
| S. 10 | Appalachian State | |
| S. 17 | Louisiana Tech | |
| O. 1 | @TEXAS TECH | 30-31 |
| O. 8 | @KANSAS STATE | 31-28 |
| O. 15 | Oklahoma | 10-41 |
| O. 22 | @COLORADO | 21-30 |
| O. 29 | Missouri | 31-14 |
| N. 5 | Nebraska | 8-14 |
| N. 12 | @TEXAS | 23-27 |
| N. 19 | Iowa State | 7-13 |

Head coach: Mark Mangino,
 4th Year (12-24)

Career Record: 12-24

Stadium: Memorial Stadium

Turf: Artificial

Capacity: 50,071



TEXAS LONGHORNS

2004 Record: 11-1 overall, 7-1 Big 12 (beat Michigan in the Rose Bowl, 38-37)
 Stadium: Darrell K Royal-Texas Memorial Stadium
 Turf: Grass Capacity: 80,082
 Official athletic Web site: www.texassports.com

PRESEASON RANK:

FIVE-YEAR WINS TREND

19 11 11 10 11
2000 2001 2002 2003 2004

Head coach: Mack Brown, 8th Year (70-19) Career Record: 150-88-1

Assistant coaches: Greg Davis (off. coord/QBs), Duane Akina (co-def. coord./def. backs), Gene Chizik (co-def. coord./asst. head coach/LBs), Bruce Chambers (asst. head coach/recruiting coord./TEs), Oscar Giles (def. ends), Bobby Kennedy (recruiting coord./WRs), Mac McWhorter (assoc. head coach/off. line), Ken Rucker (RBs), Mike Tolleson (def. tackles/special teams coord.)



2005 SCHEDULE

| DATE | OPPONENT | 04 RESULT |
|-------|---------------------|-----------|
| S. 3 | Louisiana-Lafayette | |
| S. 10 | @OHIO STATE | |
| S. 17 | Rice | 35-13 |
| O. 1 | @MISSOURI | 28-20 |
| O. 8 | Oklahoma | 0-12 |
| O. 15 | Colorado | 31-7 |
| O. 22 | Texas Tech | 51-21 |
| O. 29 | @OKLAHOMA STATE | 56-35 |
| N. 5 | @BAYLOR | 44-14 |
| N. 12 | Kansas | 27-23 |
| N. 25 | @TEXAS A&M | 26-13 |

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 17
Lettermen returning/lost: 44/16

OFFENSE

| | | |
|----|----|----------------------------------|
| QB | 10 | Vince Young (6-5, 230, Jr.) |
| FB | 46 | Ahmard Hall (5-11, 235, Jr.) |
| RB | 11 | Ramonce Taylor (5-11, 195, So.) |
| LT | 73 | Jonathan Scott (6-7, 310, Sr.) |
| LG | 64 | Kasey Studdard (6-3, 295, Jr.) |
| C | 62 | Lyle Sendlein (6-5, 305, Jr.) |
| RG | 72 | Will Allen (6-6, 315, Sr.) |
| RT | 63 | Justin Blalock (6-4, 329, Jr.) |
| TE | 16 | David Thomas (6-3, 245, Sr.) |
| SE | 4 | Limas Sweed (6-5, 215, So.) |
| FL | 8 | Jordan Shipley (6-0, 184, r-Fr.) |

DEFENSE

| | | |
|-----|----|----------------------------------|
| LE | 80 | Tim Crowder (6-4, 255, Jr.) |
| NT | 92 | Larry Dibbles (6-2, 285, Sr.) |
| DT | 90 | Rodrique Wright (6-5, 305, Sr.) |
| RE | 39 | Brian Robison (6-3, 267, Jr.) |
| SLB | 49 | Eric Hall (6-2, 245, Sr.) |
| MLB | 2 | Aaron Harris (6-0, 235, Sr.) |
| WLB | 40 | Robert Killebrew (6-2, 225, So.) |
| RCB | 8 | Cedric Griffin (6-2, 193, Sr.) |
| LCB | 5 | Tarell Brown (6-0, 185, Jr.) |
| FS | 27 | Michael Griffin (6-0, 200, Jr.) |
| SS | 7 | Michael Huff (6-1, 205, Sr.) |

SPECIALISTS

| | | |
|----|----|--------------------------------|
| PK | 15 | David Pino (5-8, 180, Sr.) |
| P | 35 | Richmond McGee (6-4, 203, Sr.) |

RATING THE RECRUITS

1. Jamaal Charles, RB
Joined TB race as soon as he walked on campus.
2. Quan Cosby, WR
4-year minor leaguer signed with 'Horns in '01.
3. Colt McCoy, QB
First QB signed by Texas since Vince Young in '02.
4. Michael Houston, RB
One member of '05 class who's already enrolled.
5. Harry Melton, RB
270-pounder is nephew of NFL's Ray Crockett.

Orangebloods viewing 2005 season through Rose-colored glasses

That first week in January shaped up nicely for Texas. First, the Longhorns got a final-play field goal to defeat Michigan in the Rose Bowl. All the controversy over Texas' climb over California in the BCS standings was forgotten for a few hours in Pasadena. The game, and quarterback Vince Young's four-touchdown performance, were that good.

A few days later, Texas tormentor Oklahoma got embarrassed in the Orange Bowl for the national championship. Nope, it doesn't get much better for the Orangebloods.

Now, let's see how Texas handles a little role reversal. The Longhorns are the group that enters the season with no question mark at quarterback, the division favorite and the league's top national-title contender. Oklahoma is No. 2.

With a break or two, Texas could find its way back to the Rose Bowl. This is a program that's been knocking on the door for a while. The Longhorns have posted double-digit victories each of the last four years and Mack Brown is the only coach in the nation to win nine games in each of the past nine seasons.

It almost sounds like the running start Bobby Bowden got before his first championship, or Tom Osborne. The difference was, those coaches also dominated their conferences. For all of Brown's success, none of his teams have won a league title.

So, first things first. The Big 12 South is to the point where if a team is good enough to run the table in conference play, it can play for the national championship. The Longhorns must end a five-year losing streak to the Sooners for that to happen.

This could be the team to do it. Texas is feeling so good about itself, Brown's message entering the season is a fear of complacency.

"One of the really hard things to do is figure out who you are as a team because the dynamic changes every year," Brown says. "We worked harder this past spring more than in past years. We didn't want to seem complacent about winning the Rose Bowl. We wanted to deliver the message that we can go back there and win it [again]."

For that to happen, Young needs to continue his steady climb, and there's no reason to think that won't happen. He rushed for 192 yards and

four touchdowns in the Rose Bowl win against Michigan, two in the fourth quarter, while also passing for 180 yards and a score.

It was an amazing performance, perhaps the best of any player in the postseason, and it kick-started Young's Heisman Trophy campaign.

"If the team does well, he'll have a chance," Brown says.

Young was a difference-maker in many games, but two, on successive weekends, stand out. The Longhorns fell behind Oklahoma State 35-7 at halftime. Brown calmed his team and rallied Texas for a 56-35 victory.

The next week, the Longhorns were about to become upset victims for the ages, falling behind Kansas by 10 with less than five minutes left. Young went 18 yards for one touchdown, and threw the game-winner with 11 seconds to play. The big moment was Young's first-down scramble on fourth-and-18 to keep alive the winning drive.

"We won so many games in the third and fourth quarter we became a very confident team," Young recalls.

A difference for Young this season is no Cedric Benson behind him. Benson rushed for more than 1,000 yards in each of his four seasons and finished as the sixth-leading rusher in NCAA history, and Texas spent the spring seeking to replace him.

It will happen with two backs. Ramonce Taylor, who has played running back and wide receiver, will become the Longhorns' speed back, and another converted receiver, Chris Ogbonnaya, will get first crack at power back. Another candidate there will be freshman Michael Houston, who went through spring drills, and fellow newcomers Jamaal Charles and Henry Melton.

It was a different kind of recruiting class for Brown. He signed only 14 players, the fewest since he's been at Texas, and it was his first ranked outside a consensus top 10. But Brown doesn't seem worried.

"I've gone from Mr. February to 'can't recruit' in three years, so it's funny to see the perception change," Brown says.

Not out of the running back picture is Selvin Young, who was expected to inherit the job until he ran into academic problems and missed spring workouts.

Taylor has big plans for himself. He switched his jersey from No. 25 to No. 11, the number once worn by Ricky Williams and Major Applewhite.



Without Benson, Young will draw more attention, so the development of the running backs and improvement at wide receiver becomes crucial. The go-to receiver appears to be Limas Sweed, who caught 23 passes for 263 yards last season. Redshirt freshman Jordan Shipley, the career receptions leader in Texas prep history, has the best hands of the receiving corps.

Texas had only six pass plays of 40 or more yards—Young caught one of them—and the tight ends caught too many balls. Look for Young to go deep more often and use more play-action, looking to stretch out the passing game.

The offensive line returns four starters: tackles Justin Blalock and Jonathan Scott and guards Will Allen and Kasey Studdard. Blalock and Scott were all-league picks.

Texas will have one of the most experienced defenses in the nation with nine returning starters. Six are seniors. But gone is consensus All-America linebacker Derrick Johnson and the assistant coach who helped Johnson turn in his huge year, Greg Robinson, who became Syracuse's head coach.

Robert Killebrew served as Johnson's backup last season and will get the call, but the leadership duties fall to Aaron Harris, a second-team all-league pick last season. Harris is a hard hitter who came up big in the Rose Bowl with 8.5 tackles to Johnson's 1.5.

"He played with plenty of passion and intensity in the Rose Bowl, and for us to be the defense we want to be that's how he needs to continue playing," Brown says.

IN PROFILE ... VINCE YOUNG

Longhorns' quarterback wants to do more than just dazzle this season

Ask Mack Brown about junior quarterback Vince Young and the Texas Longhorns coach can't wait to share a couple of statistics.

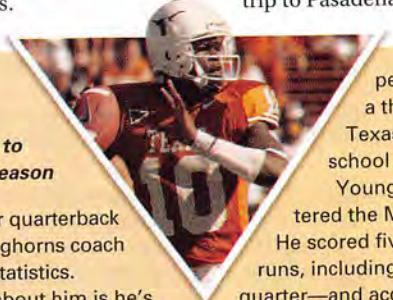
"The thing you have to say about him is he's 17-2 and he's off to a start to be the winningest quarterback in University of Texas history," Brown says. "And we all looked [it] up after the season and he's had a better completion percentage after two years than anybody in school history."

Indeed, Brown has his facts and figures straight. Young, oft-criticized for poor throwing mechanics and for favoring speedy runs over passing patience, defies the many doubters among the Longhorns faithful. And, yes, his 59-percent completion rate after two seasons ranks first, ahead of stalwarts (and predecessors) Chris Simms and Major Applewhite.

The bigger question, of course, is whether his numbers will stack up with Simms and Applewhite after three or four seasons. With all-everything runner Cedric Benson lost to the NFL, one thing is certain: Young will have ample opportunity.

"We feel like we will throw it more than last year," Brown says. "We want to get so we can throw the ball down the field again to the wide receivers, and Vince is so much more ready to do that."

To date, all he's done is win. Even his most persistent critics had to admire Young's dazzling



performance in the Rose Bowl, a thrilling 38-37 victory that gave Texas its first BCS bowl win in school history.

Young, the Rose Bowl MVP, shattered the Michigan defense in Pasadena.

He scored five touchdowns—four came on runs, including a 60-yarder to start the third quarter—and accounted for 372 total yards.

In many cases, Young escaped two or three would-be tacklers at once, shaking them off by churning his powerful legs and then juking defenders in the open field. The comeback win over the Wolverines—Texas trailed by 10 points in the fourth quarter—capped a string of late-season Longhorn rallies led by Young.

"That was a signature game where everyone in the country could see Vince Young directing the team as the quarterback," says Charles Davis, a TBS college football analyst. "That was huge. His confidence coming off that will be a monster."

Texas finished the season 11-1, with its lone loss coming against, yes, Oklahoma. The Sooners wound up where the Longhorns want to be: playing for the national championship.

That means Young must have an even bigger year than he did in 2004. He says he's ready.

"The goal is to play at [Heisman winner and USC quarterback] Matt Leinart's level," Young says. "That's where I want to be. He stepped up and led USC even when they had some young guys. Every NCAA quarterback wants to have a year like that."

—Erik Spanberg

Taking over for Robinson is Gene Chizik, who moves over from Auburn. The Tigers led the nation in scoring defense last year, which is Chizik's aim for the Longhorns.

"I didn't come in to reinvent the wheel," Chizik says. "They've played great defense here."

Tackle Rodrique Wright could be the program's next defensive All-American, if it isn't tackle Larry Dibbles or strong safety Michael Huff, who will also play some cornerback this fall. Take your pick. They're all excellent.

Starting corners Cedric Griffin and Tarell Brown are back, as are ends Brian Robison and Tim Crowder. Besides Harris, Eric Hall returns at linebacker. Another linebacker candidate is Eric Foreman, who has moved from quarterback.

The player who scored the winning points in the Rose Bowl and will never have to pay for a Shiner Bock beer in Texas again, kicker Dusty Mangum, has moved on. But two-year punter Richmond McGee is back. If Selvin Young gets his grades in order, he's one of the Big 12's top kickoff-return men.

The pieces are in place for a first league championship since the Longhorns won the inaugural title in 1996. The program has won plenty of games and has been to bowls nearly every season. There are plenty of accomplishments to crow about.

But what Texas hasn't done in six years is beat Oklahoma. If that happens this October, the Longhorns might have smooth sailing for a return trip to Pasadena. ■■■

2004 TEAM STATS

| TEAM STATISTICS | TEXAS | OPP |
|-------------------------|------------|------------|
| SCORING | 423 | 215 |
| Points Per Game | 35.2 | 35.2 |
| FIRST DOWNS | 284 | 196 |
| Rushing | 178 | 80 |
| Passing | 92 | 99 |
| Penalty | 14 | 17 |
| RUSHING YARDAGE | 3590 | 1289 |
| Yards gained rushing | 3796 | 1615 |
| Yards lost rushing | 206 | 326 |
| Rushing Attempts | 615 | 405 |
| Average Per Rush | 5.8 | 3.2 |
| Average Per Game | 299.2 | 107.4 |
| TDs Rushing | 41 | 12 |
| PASSING YARDAGE | 1983 | 2552 |
| Att-Comp-Int | 275-159-11 | 386-213-13 |
| Average Per Pass | 7.2 | 6.6 |
| Average Per Catch | 12.5 | 12.0 |
| Average Per Game | 165.2 | 212.7 |
| TDs Passing | 12 | 12 |
| TOTAL OFFENSE | 5573 | 3841 |
| Total Plays | 890 | 791 |
| Average Per Play | 6.3 | 4.9 |
| Average Per Game | 464.4 | 320.1 |
| KICK RETURNS: #-YDS | 26-507 | 46-1065 |
| PUNT RETURNS: #-YDS | 27-198 | 24-151 |
| INT RETURNS: #-YDS | 13-209 | 11-157 |
| KICK RETURN AVERAGE | 19.5 | 23.2 |
| PUNT RETURN AVERAGE | 7.3 | 6.3 |
| INT RETURN AVERAGE | 16.1 | 14.3 |
| FUMBLES-LOST | 23-7 | 22-10 |
| PENALTIES-YARDS | 92-711 | 76-535 |
| Average Per Game | 59.2 | 44.6 |
| PUNTS-YARDS | 53-2096 | 74-3018 |
| Average Per Punt | 39.5 | 40.8 |
| Net punt average | 36.7 | 38.1 |
| TIME OF POSSESSION/GAME | 32:08 | 27:52 |
| 3RD-DOWN CONV. | 79/171 | 49/175 |
| 3rd-Down Pct | 46% | 28% |
| 4TH-DOWN CONV. | 10/14 | 12/28 |
| 4th-Down Pct | 71% | 43% |
| SACKS BY-YARDS | 22-138 | 11-85 |
| MISC YARDS | 12 | 98 |
| TOUCHDOWNS SCORED | 55 | 26 |
| FIELD GOALS-ATTEMPTS | 12-17 | 12-15 |
| PAT-ATTEMPTS | 52-54 | 23-25 |
| ATTENDANCE | 498566 | 221549 |
| Games/Avg Per Game | 6/83094 | 4/53387 |
| Neutral Site Games | 2/86528 | |

| SCORE BY QTRS | 1st | 2nd | 3rd | 4th | OT | Total |
|---------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|-------|
| Texas | 123 | 102 | 112 | 86 | — | 423 |
| Opponents | 54 | 85 | 20 | 56 | — | 215 |

2004 INDIVIDUAL STATS OFFENSE

PASSING

| | | | | | | | |
|-------------|----|--------|-------------|------|------|----|-------|
| Vince Young | GP | Effic. | Att-Cmp-Int | Pct. | Yds. | TD | Avg/G |
| | 12 | 128.37 | 250-148-11 | 59.2 | 1849 | 12 | 154.1 |

Chance Mck

| | | | | | | | |
|------------|----|--------|-------------|------|------|----|-------|
| Chance Mck | GP | Effic. | Att-Cmp-Int | Pct. | Yds. | TD | Avg/G |
| | 6 | 74.46 | 21-9-0 | 42.9 | 79 | 0 | 13.2 |

RUSHING

| | | | | | |
|---------------|----|------|----------|-----|-------|
| Cedric Benson | GP | Att. | Net Avg. | TD | Avg/G |
| | 12 | 326 | 1834 | 5.6 | 19 |

| | | | | | |
|-------------|----|------|----------|-----|-------|
| Vince Young | GP | Att. | Net Avg. | TD | Avg/G |
| | 12 | 167 | 1079 | 6.5 | 14 |

| | | | | | |
|---------------|----|------|----------|------|-------|
| Ramonc Taylor | GP | Att. | Net Avg. | TD | Avg/G |
| | 10 | 28 | 284 | 10.1 | 1 |

RECEIVING

| | | | | | | |
|--------------|----|-----|------|------|----|-------|
| Tony Jeffery | GP | No. | Yds. | Avg. | TD | Avg/G |
| | 12 | 33 | 437 | 13.2 | 3 | 36.4 |

| | | | | | | |
|-----------|----|-----|------|------|----|-------|
| Bo Scaife | GP | No. | Yds. | Avg. | TD | Avg/G |
| | 12 | 26 | 348 | 13.4 | 2 | 29.0 |

| | | | | | | |
|--------------|----|-----|------|------|----|-------|
| David Thomas | GP | No. | Yds. | Avg. | TD | Avg/G |
| | 12 | 25 | 430 | 17.2 | 5 | 35.8 |

DEFENSE

| | | | | |
|-----------------|----|------|------|-------|
| TACKLES | GP | Solo | Ast. | Total |
| Derrick Johnson | 12 | 73 | 57 | 130 |

| | | | | |
|--------------|----|------|------|-------|
| Aaron Harris | GP | Solo | Ast. | Total |
| | 12 | 65 | 53 | 118 |

| | | | | |
|--------------|----|------|------|-------|
| Michael Huff | GP | Solo | Ast. | Total |
| | 12 | 50 | 23 | 73 |

| | | | |
|-------------|----|-----|------|
| SACKS | GP | No. | Yds. |
| Tim Crowder | GP | No. | Yds. |

| | | | |
|-------------|----|-----|------|
| Tim Crowder | GP | No. | Yds. |
| | 12 | 4.5 | 28 |

| | | | |
|-----------------|----|-----|------|
| Derrick Johnson | GP | No. | Yds. |
| | 12 | 2.0 | 15 |

| | | | |
|--------------|----|-----|------|
| Aaron Harris | GP | No. | Yds. |
| | 12 | 2.0 | 11 |

| | | | | |
|---------------|-----|------|------|----|
| INTERCEPTIONS | No. | Yds. | Avg. | TD |
| Michael Huff | No. | Yds. | Avg. | TD |

| | | | | |
|--------------|-----|------|------|----|
| Michael Huff | No. | Yds. | Avg. | TD |
| | 2 | 14 | 7.0 | 0 |

| | | | | |
|--------------|-----|------|------|----|
| Tarell Brown | No. | Yds. | Avg. | TD |
| | 2 | 31 | 15.5 | 0 |

| | | | | |
|----------------|-----|------|------|----|
| Cedric Griffin | No. | Yds. | Avg. | TD |
| | 2 | 29 | 14.5 | 0 |



TRAVIS WILSON, WR

OKLAHOMA SOONERS

2004 Record: 12-1 overall, 8-0 Big 12 (lost to Southern California in the Orange Bowl, 55-19)

Stadium: Gaylord Family – Oklahoma Memorial Stadium

Official athletic Web site: www.soonersports.com

Turf: Grass

Capacity: 82,112

PRESEASON RANK:

2

FIVE-YEAR WINS TREND

| | | | | |
|------|------|------|------|------|
| 13 | 11 | 12 | 12 | 12 |
| 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 |



Head coach: Bob Stoops, 6th Year (67-12) Career Record: 67-12

Assistant coaches: Brent Venables (assoc. head coach/def. coord./LBs), Bobby Jack Wright (asst. head coach/co-def. coord./def. backs/recruiting coord.), Chuck Long (off. coord./QBs), Cale Gundy (RBS), Jackie Shipp (def. line), Kevin Sumlin (TEs), Kevin Wilson (off. line/run game coord.), Darrell Wyatt (WRs), Chris Wilson (def. ends)

2005 SCHEDULE

| DATE | OPPONENT | '04 RESULT |
|-------|----------------|------------|
| S. 3 | TCU | |
| S. 10 | Tulsa | |
| S. 17 | @UCLA | |
| O. 1 | Kansas State | 31-21 |
| O. 8 | @TEXAS | 12-0 |
| O. 15 | @KANSAS | 41-10 |
| O. 22 | Baylor | 35-0 |
| O. 29 | @NEBRASKA | 30-3 |
| N. 5 | Oklahoma State | 38-35 |
| N. 12 | Texas A&M | 42-35 |
| N. 19 | @TEXAS TECH | 28-13 |

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 17
Lettermen returning/lost: 40/24

OFFENSE

| | |
|----|------------------------------------|
| QB | 7 Rhett Bomar (6-4, 208, r-Fr.) |
| FB | 38 J.D. Runnels (6-1, 246, Sr.) |
| RB | 28 Adrian Peterson (6-2, 210, So.) |
| LT | 77 Davin Joseph (6-4, 312, Sr.) |
| LG | 70 Kelvin Chaisson (6-5, 303, Sr.) |
| C | 52 Chris Bush (6-4, 284, Sr.) |
| RG | 64 Chris Chester (6-4, 278, Jr.) |
| RT | 69 Akim Millington (6-6, 300, So.) |
| TE | 89 James Moses (6-3, 242, Sr.) |
| WR | 4 Travis Wilson (6-3, 216, Sr.) |
| WR | 3 Jejuan Rankins (5-11, 180, Sr.) |

DEFENSE

| | |
|-----|--------------------------------------|
| DE | 92 Larry Birdine (6-5, 251, So.) |
| DT | 94 Dusty Dvoracek (6-3, 294, Sr.) |
| DT | 68 Carl Pendleton (6-6, 277, So.) |
| DE | 58 Calvin Thibodeaux (6-1, 249, Sr.) |
| OLB | 42 Rufus Alexander (6-1, 225, Jr.) |
| ILB | 46 Zach Latimer (6-3, 231, Jr.) |
| OLB | 44 Clint Ingram (6-2, 241, Jr.) |
| CB | 24 Marcus Walker (5-11, 180, So.) |
| CB | 13 Eric Bassey (6-1, 199, Sr.) |
| FS | 16 Lewis Baker (6-3, 210, So.) |
| SS | 14 Brett Bowers (6-1, 193, r-Fr.) |

SPECIALISTS

| | |
|----|------------------------------------|
| PK | 32 Garrett Hartley (5-9, 175, So.) |
| P | 17 Cody Freeby (6-3, 217, So.) |

RATING THE RECRUITS

- DeMarcus Granger, DT
Stoops: 6-2, 320-pounder has "raw strength."
- C.J. Ah You, DE
Juco transfer who began his career at BYU.
- Malcolm Kelly, WR
Door is open for Kelly to make an impact.
- Brandon Braxton, OL
Signed in '04, but didn't qualify academically.
- Reggie Smith, S
Should contend for a starting job at free safety.

Sooners eager to erase painful memories of Orange Bowl shellacking from Southern Cal

Jt was an offseason like none other in the Bob Stoops era.

The Sooners have spent springs and summers celebrating a national championship, partying after bowl victories and reasonably explaining away a couple of postseason losses.

But nothing compares to the pain and humiliation absorbed after last year's shellacking by Southern Cal in the Orange Bowl.

The 55-19 drubbing was the worst loss by a Stoops team. The only thing comparable was the four-touchdown defeat to Kansas State in the Big 12 title game two years ago, and the Sooners delivered on a vow to make things right a year later by stomping Colorado in the same game.

But this? Where did this come from? Was Oklahoma truly six touchdowns worse than the Trojans?

And if the loss itself wasn't bad enough, Southern Cal quarterback Matt Leinart said a week after the game that the Sooners were begging to get off the field. He told a Los Angeles radio station that Oklahoma players were telling Southern Cal to run the ball so the clock wouldn't stop and the game would reach a quicker conclusion.

Whoa.

"All the responsibility for that game comes to me," Stoops says. "We didn't get it done."

Now comes the response, and this should be a fascinating season because several conditions have changed in Norman.

Gone is prime-time quarterback Jason White. He'll be remembered as a decorated hero, a Heisman winner and finalist who overcame two knee surgeries and never lost to Texas.

Also departed are several other starters who were some of the top players in the college game. Offensive tackle Jammal Brown won the Outland Trophy. Wide receiver Mark Clayton and defensive end Dan Cody were All-Americans. Center Vince Carter and defensive backs Donte Nicholson, Brodney Pool and Antonio Perkins made somebody's all-conference team.

Ten who played for Oklahoma last season were selected in the NFL Draft (but not White). No school had more picks.

The departures cast a spotlight on recruiting, and the Sooners came through with a class widely

ranked among the top five in the country. The unusual aspect of this class: It's not all Oklahoma and Texas high school kids. The Sooners signed players from 13 states.

"This is our most diverse and national class," Stoops says. "The continual national exposure with television and championship games has generated a lot of attention for this program and enabled us to attract prospects from all over the country."

Still, there hasn't been this much uncertainty since Stoops' rookie season. The difference between now and then is that several years of top-rated recruiting classes have been stacked up on the runway waiting for takeoff. Now is the time for many of these Sooners.

And there's running back Adrian Peterson, the nation's best college football player this side of Southern Cal.

As Peterson's amazing freshman season was unfolding, he seemed to expand some circle of greatness. Texans who saw him romp for more than 5,000 yards and 54 touchdowns in two seasons at Palestine High measured him against Tyler's Earl Campbell, Hooks' Billy Sims and Sealy's Eric Dickerson.

Oklahomans are saving a place for him beside the likes of Sims, Greg Pruitt, Joe Washington and Steve Owens.

Football followers from all over compared his season to other freshman wonders, such as Georgia's Herschel Walker, Pittsburgh's Tony Dorsett and Ohio State's Maurice Clarett.

Peterson deserved all the praise. He finished with the NCAA rushing record for freshmen with 1,925 yards and ranked sixth in the NCAA at 148.1 yards per game. His 339 rushing attempts led college football, and Peterson's runner-up Heisman finish was the best ever for a freshman.

Nobody who has seen Peterson's uncommon blend of sprinter's speed on a linebacker-sized body of 6-feet-2 and 210 pounds has been accused of reckless hyperbole.

"In my 10 years of coaching I've never seen anybody like him," Oklahoma offensive coordinator Chuck Long says. "He makes it look easy, but it's not easy."

Little in Peterson's life away from football has ever come easy. His father is in prison. His brother



was killed by a drunk driver. Peterson has survived some troubled years that interrupted his career and cost him at least one high school season. He's learned work ethic and maturity, but he never had to learn football.

Now, Oklahoma will need Peterson more than last season. He's not the Sooners' other weapon. He's the man.

Which provided a good news/bad news scenario for Oklahoma and Peterson during the spring. Peterson didn't participate after shoulder surgery. He probably wouldn't have gotten many reps anyway. The Sooners know what he can do.

But Peterson is so good, his pace so different from even an above-average back, it would have been productive for his Oklahoma teammates to work with him. He gets to the handoff faster and bursts through the hole quicker than any back in the college game. The Sooners are auditioning three quarterbacks and all would have benefited by his presence.

Oklahoma has 29 preseason practices to work it out, and to find the quarterback. Spring wrapped up without Stoops naming a successor. The finalists are redshirt freshman Rhett Bomar, third-year sophomore Tommy Grady and fourth-year junior Paul Thompson. The showdown is likely between Bomar and Thompson. Grady had the worst of it in Oklahoma's final two spring scrimmages and had asked coaches to make a decision regarding him sooner than later to keep open transfer options.

If it is Bomar vs. Thompson, Stoops has a difficult call.

Bomar is the highest-profile quarterback recruit in the Stoops era, and perhaps Oklahoma history. When

he arrived two years ago with Peterson, it was assumed he would rise to the starting role after a redshirt season. Bomar has a wonderful arm and made several big plays during spring scrimmages. The offense operated the most efficiently while he called signals.

But Thompson may be the players' choice. He's spent three years as a reserve and many believe his time is come. Thompson would be the safe, even the more popular, choice. Bomar has more upside.

Other positions are more settled. Behind Peterson is Kejuan Jones, who started four games as a sophomore but has settled nicely into his reserve role. Making noise at running back in the spring was 5-7 Jacob Gutierrez.

Eleven of wide receiver Travis Wilson's 50 receptions went for touchdowns last year. Developing a second go-to wideout is a key.

Davin Joseph is set at left tackle, Kelvin Chaisson and Chris Bush, who split time at guard, are back, but Bush could be moved to center. Another possibility there is Chris Chester, a converted tight end.

Larry Birdine started only one game at defensive end last year, but was an impact player in the rotation. He tied for the league lead in sacks with eight.

The best news on defense is the return of Dusty Dvoracek, who was kicked off the team last year after two games as offseason troubles started piling up. He was a first-team All-Big 12 tackle as a junior, when he recorded seven sacks.

Dvoracek could miss the season's first month after tearing his left bicep in the spring game.

Recovery from the surgery was expected to take up to five months.

so sleek, the gears are unbelievable and they go from zero to 60 faster than anything you know."

All of which describes the 6-foot-2, 210-pound Peterson, who runs a 4.4 time in the 40. Heading into his sophomore season in Norman, Peterson must cope with his own sublime standards.

It will be hard to improve on 2004, when he set an NCAA freshman record with 1,925 yards rushing, eclipsing current NFL player and former Wisconsin star Ron Dayne's 1996 mark. Peterson also scored 15 TDs and broke Oklahoma's single-season rushing record for a runner of any class.

"To make it to the level that he was last year, I'd have to say that I don't think I could have anticipated that," Stoops says. "We did believe that he would make a strong impact. He did that and more."

Perhaps most terrifying for opponents, Peterson proved he can turn on the jets—he ripped off a number of lengthy gains last season, including a jaw-dropping 80-yarder through the heart of the Oklahoma State defense—as well as hammer away for tough yards inside.

Now Stoops wants A.D. to beef up his receiving skills and improve his pass protection. (Peterson had an injured shoulder surgically repaired soon after his freshman season ended.) Still, even OU coaches acknowledge Peterson as a can't-miss NFL prospect.

—Erik Spanberg

2004 TEAM STATS

| TEAM STATISTICS | OKLAHOMA | OPP |
|-------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| SCORING | 452 | 219 |
| Points Per Game | 34.8 | 16.8 |
| FIRST DOWNS | 310 | 203 |
| Rushing | 147 | 75 |
| Passing | 144 | 110 |
| Penalty | 19 | 18 |
| RUSHING YARDAGE | 2709 | 1230 |
| Yards gained rushing | 2993 | 1636 |
| Yards lost rushing | 284 | 406 |
| Rushing Attempts | 565 | 402 |
| Average Per Rush | 4.8 | 3.1 |
| Average Per Game | 208.4 | 94.6 |
| TDs Rushing | 22 | 10 |
| PASSING YARDAGE | 3298 | 2657 |
| Att-Cmp-Int | 406-268-8 | 410-223-8 |
| Average Per Pass | 8.1 | 6.5 |
| Average Per Catch | 12.3 | 11.9 |
| Average Per Game | 253.7 | 204.4 |
| TDs Passing | 36 | 15 |
| TOTAL OFFENSE | 6007 | 3887 |
| Total Plays | 971 | 812 |
| Average Per Play | 6.2 | 4.8 |
| Average Per Game | 462.1 | 299.0 |
| KICK RETURNS: #-YDS | 28-534 | 35-553 |
| PUNT RETURNS: #-YDS | 35-316 | 22-95 |
| INT RETURNS: #-YDS | 8-120 | 9-152 |
| KICK RETURN AVERAGE | 19.1 | 15.8 |
| PUNT RETURN AVERAGE | 9.0 | 4.3 |
| INT RETURN AVERAGE | 15.0 | 16.9 |
| FUMBLES-LOST | 20-9 | 18-14 |
| PENALTIES-YARDS | 85-733 | 83-652 |
| Average Per Game | 56.4 | 50.2 |
| PUNTS-YARDS | 53-2184 | 84-3493 |
| Average Per Punt | 41.2 | 41.6 |
| Net punt average | 39.4 | 37.8 |
| TIME OF POSSESSION/GAME | 33:11 | 26:49 |
| 3RD-DOWN CONV. | 108/200 | 66/182 |
| 3rd-Down Pct | 54% | 36% |
| 4TH-DOWN CONV. | 12/17 | 8/17 |
| 4th-Down Pct | 71% | 47% |
| SACKS BY-YARDS | 39-258 | 9-73 |
| MISC YARDS | 28 | 8 |
| TOUCHDOWNS SCORED | 61 | 28 |
| FIELD GOALS-ATTEMPTS | 9-17 | 8-11 |
| PAT-ATTEMPTS | 57-60 | 27-28 |
| ATTENDANCE | 507189 | 214454 |
| Games/Avg Per Game | 6/84532 | 4/53614 |
| Neutral Site Games | | 3/73210 |

| SCORE BY QTRS | 1st | 2nd | 3rd | 4th | OT | Total |
|---------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|-------|
| Oklahoma | 87 | 161 | 121 | 83 | — | 452 |
| Opponents | 49 | 75 | 44 | 51 | — | 219 |

2004 INDIVIDUAL STATS

OFFENSE

PASSING

| | | | | | | | |
|-------------|----|--------|-------------|------|------|----|-------|
| Jason White | GP | Effic. | Att-Cmp-Int | Pct. | Yds. | TD | Avg/G |
| | 13 | 159.42 | 390-255-9 | 65.4 | 3205 | 35 | 246.5 |
| Tommy Grady | GP | Effic. | Att-Cmp-Int | Pct. | Yds. | TD | Avg/G |
| | 5 | 147.09 | 14-12-0 | 85.7 | 63 | 1 | 12.6 |

RUSHING

| | | | | | |
|-----------------|----|------|----------|-----|-------|
| Adrian Peterson | GP | Att. | Net Avg. | TD | Avg/G |
| | 13 | 339 | 1925 | 5.7 | 15 |
| Kejuan Jones | 12 | 129 | 513 | 4.0 | 5 |
| D.J. Wolfe | 13 | 25 | 107 | 4.3 | 0 |

RECEIVING

| | | | | | | |
|---------------|----|-----|------|------|----|-------|
| Mark Clayton | GP | No. | Yds. | Avg. | TD | Avg/G |
| | 13 | 66 | 876 | 13.3 | 8 | 67.4 |
| Travis Wilson | 13 | 50 | 660 | 13.2 | 11 | 50.8 |

Brandon Jones

| | | | | | | |
|---------------|----|-----|------|------|----|-------|
| Brandon Jones | GP | No. | Yds. | Avg. | TD | Avg/G |
| | 13 | 27 | 345 | 12.8 | 3 | 26.5 |

DEFENSE

TACKLES

| | | | | |
|-----------------|----|------|------|-------|
| Brodney Pool | GP | Solo | Ast. | Total |
| | 13 | 65 | 27 | 92 |
| Lance Mitchell | 13 | 45 | 33 | 78 |
| Rufus Alexander | 13 | 49 | 25 | 74 |

SACKS

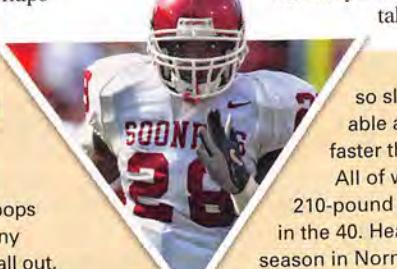
| | | | |
|------------------|----|------|------|
| Dan Cody | GP | No. | Yds. |
| | 13 | 10.0 | 66 |
| Jonathan Jackson | 13 | 8.0 | 55 |

Lawrence Dampeer

| | | | |
|------------------|----|-----|------|
| Lawrence Dampeer | GP | No. | Yds. |
| | 1 | 31 | 31.0 |

Brandon Shelby

| | | | |
|----------------|----|-----|------|
| Brandon Shelby | GP | No. | Yds. |
| | 1 | 0 | 0.0 |



IN PROFILE ... ADRIAN PETERSON

Peterson looking for encore to spectacular frosh campaign

When Oklahoma coach Bob Stoops recruited Adrian Peterson out of tiny Palestine, Texas, he went literally all out. Peterson, nicknamed "A.D." because of his ability to run "all day," is the son of a convicted money-launderer, Nelson Peterson, who is now serving a 10-year sentence in a Texarkana federal prison.

Stoops was the only recruiter who visited Peterson's father in prison. The extra effort paid off, luring Peterson, a lifelong Texas Longhorns fan, across the state border. Since arriving in Norman, all Peterson has done is conjure up fond memories for Sooners fans, evoking the names of past star OU rushers Greg Pruitt and Billy Sims, the former Heisman Trophy Winner.

In fact, Heisman talk will be all the rage this season. Peterson finished second to USC star Matt Leinart in the Heisman voting last season, the highest finish by a freshman ever. Earlier in 2004, he reached 1,000 yards rushing in his seventh game, a feat accomplished by just two other players—Emmitt Smith (1987) and Marshall Faulk (1991).

"This is bad because we're talking college football, but Adrian Peterson reminds me of a high-priced sports car," says Charles Davis, an analyst on cable network TBS's coverage of Big 12 games. "I mean that just in the sense of those machines are

so sleek, the gears are unbelievable and they go from zero to 60 faster than anything you know."

All of which describes the 6-foot-2, 210-pound Peterson, who runs a 4.4 time in the 40. Heading into his sophomore season in Norman, Peterson must cope with his own sublime standards.

It will be hard to improve on 2004, when he set an NCAA freshman record with 1,925 yards rushing, eclipsing current NFL player and former Wisconsin star Ron Dayne's 1996 mark. Peterson also scored 15 TDs and broke Oklahoma's single-season rushing record for a runner of any class.

"To make it to the level that he was last year, I'd have to say that I don't think I could have anticipated that," Stoops says. "We did believe that he would make a strong impact. He did that and more."

Perhaps most terrifying for opponents, Peterson proved he can turn on the jets—he ripped off a number of lengthy gains last season, including a jaw-dropping 80-yarder through the heart of the Oklahoma State defense—as well as hammer away for tough yards inside.

Now Stoops wants A.D. to beef up his receiving skills and improve his pass protection. (Peterson had an injured shoulder surgically repaired soon after his freshman season ended.) Still, even OU coaches acknowledge Peterson as a can't-miss NFL prospect.

—Erik Spanberg

TEXAS A&M

AGGIES

COLLEGE STATION, TEXAS



REGGIE McNEAL, QB

2005 SCHEDULE

| DATE | OPPONENT | '04 RESULT |
|-------|--------------------|------------|
| S. 3 | @CLEMSON | 27-6 |
| S. 17 | Southern Methodist | |
| S. 24 | Texas State | |
| 0. 1 | Baylor | 34-35 (OT) |
| 0. 8 | @COLORADO | 29-26 (OT) |
| 0. 15 | Oklahoma State | 36-20 |
| 0. 22 | @KANSAS STATE | 42-30 |
| 0. 29 | Iowa State | 34-3 |
| N. 5 | @TEXAS TECH | 32-25 (OT) |
| N. 12 | @OKLAHOMA | 35-42 |
| N. 25 | Texas | 13-26 |

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 17
Lettermen returning/lost: 30/24

OFFENSE

| | | |
|----|----|----------------------------------|
| QB | 1 | Reggie McNeal (6-2, 306, Sr.) |
| FB | 24 | Chris Alexander (5-11, 244, So.) |
| TB | 25 | Courtney Lewis (6-0, 195, Jr.) |
| QT | 75 | Jami Hightower (6-4, 355, Sr.) |
| QG | 64 | Kirk Elder (6-4, 305, So.) |
| C | 51 | Chris Yoder (6-3, 304, So.) |
| SG | 76 | Aldo De La Garza (6-4, 307, Sr.) |
| ST | 54 | Corey Clark (6-6, 307, So.) |
| TE | 88 | Boone Stutz (6-6, 256, Sr.) |
| WR | 17 | L'Tydrick Riley (6-2, 228, Sr.) |
| WR | 9 | DeQwan Mobley (6-2, 201, Jr.) |

DEFENSE

| | | |
|-----|----|-----------------------------------|
| DE | 92 | Chris Harrington (6-5, 272, So.) |
| DT | 97 | Johnny Jolly (6-4, 309, Sr.) |
| DT | 85 | Red Bryant (6-4, 312, So.) |
| DE | 89 | Jason Jack (6-4, 277, So.) |
| SLB | 31 | Archie McDaniel (6-2, 230, Sr.) |
| MLB | 10 | Justin Warren (6-3, 231, Jr.) |
| ROV | 57 | Lee Foliaki (6-2, 238, Sr.) |
| CB | 20 | Broderick Newton (5-11, 189, So.) |
| CB | 4 | Danny Gorner (6-0, 178, r-Fr.) |
| FS | 19 | Jaxson Appel (6-10, 198, Sr.) |
| SS | 28 | Japhus Brown (5-11, 195, So.) |

SPECIALISTS

| | | |
|----|----|-------------------------------|
| PK | 13 | Todd Pegram (6-0, 197, Sr.) |
| P | 27 | Richie Bean (6-0, 180, r-Fr.) |

RATING THE RECRUITS

1. Martellus Bennett, TE
At 6-6, 240, will also play basketball for Aggies.
2. Michael Bennett, DL
Martellus' older brother enrolled last December.
3. Jorvorskie Lane, RB
Aggies need 235-pounder to provide power at RB.
4. Justin Brantley, P
The top-rated punter/kicker in Texas prep ranks.
5. Howard Morrow, WR
Has 144 catches for 29 TDs the last two seasons.

2004 Record: 7-5 overall, 5-3 Big 12 (lost to Tennessee in the Cotton Bowl, 38-7)

Stadium: Kyle Field

Turf: Grass

Official athletic Web site: <http://sports.tamu.edu/>

Capacity: 82,600

PRESEASON RANK:

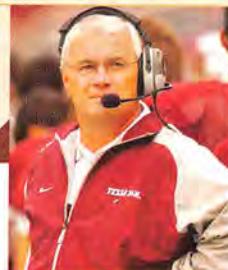
FIVE-YEAR WINS TREND

3

7 8 6 4 7

2000 2001 2002 2003 2004

Head coach: Dennis Franchione, 3rd Year (11-12) Career Record: 86-67-0 (Division I-A)
Assistant coaches: Kenith Pope (asst. head coach/WRs), Les Koening Jr. (off. coord/QBs), Carl Torbush (def. coord./LBs), Stan Eggen (def. line), Lee Hobbs (RBs), Jim Bob Helduser (off. line), Melvin Smith (safeties), Chris Thurmond (CBs), Mark Tommerdahl (TEs/special teams coord.)



Franchione's Aggies ready to take next step up the Big 12 ladder behind senior QB McNeal

Year No. 2 in the Dennis Franchione era opened and closed on sour notes, but there was plenty to like in between, which is why the mood is upbeat heading into this season.

The Aggies improved from 4-8 to 7-5 and returned to the upper half of the Big 12 echelon. There were bumps along the way, like the losses to two superior teams, Utah and Tennessee, that book-ended the season, and the head-scratching loss to Baylor.

But a six-game winning streak proved A&M was heading in the right direction, and that's expected to continue this season. There may not be enough to win the division, but a first-place finish isn't out of the question with 17 players who started at least eight games returning.

A&M's biggest asset is quarterback Reggie McNeal, the senior who has emerged as one of the nation's top players.

McNeal burst onto the scene as a freshman, leading A&M to an upset of top-ranked Oklahoma. He faltered as a sophomore while adjusting to the system of a new coaching staff, but rebounded last year by throwing for a school-record 2,791 yards and rushing for 718 yards and eight touchdowns.

McNeal is being asked to become more of the team's vocal leader in his senior season. Last year, the Aggies looked to wide receiver and return specialist Terrence Murphy for inspiration.

"When he started talking, even I got quiet," McNeal recalls. "That's how much I respected him."

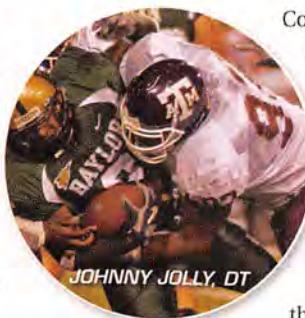
Now that respect will come McNeal's way.

"It's on me to step up and play that role," he says.

This being a veteran team should ease McNeal's responsibility.

On offense, four linemen—guards Aldo De La Garza and Kirk Elder along with tackle Jami Hightower and center Chris Yoder—return. The missing link is all-conference tackle Geoff Hangartner, but all of the other linemen collected some kind of all-league recognition a year ago. This group is as solid as any in the Big 12.

It needs to be, because the Aggies have to improve their running game. An injury to



JOHNNY JOLLY, DT

Courtney Lewis slowed the process last year. Lewis gained 742 after a 1,000-yard season in 2003. He's back at full strength and a freshman, Jorvorskie Lane, all 235 pounds of him, will get a look this fall.

Franchione says he's like to add 20 yards to the Aggies' 167-yard per game average last season without a drop in the passing game.

The loss of Murphy hurts more than in the leadership realm. He averaged 65 yards per game in receptions and

was among the league's best kick-return specialists. Ready to step in is Jason Carter, who caught 36 passes last season. But Carter's eligibility rests on his success in summer school classes.

If Carter doesn't make it, L'Tydrick Riley had an impressive spring and can become a go-to receiver.

Freshman Martellus Bennett, considered the top prep prospect in Texas, will get every opportunity to become the Aggies' starting tight end.

The concern on defense is cornerback, where A&M lost both starters. Erik Mayes didn't start last season but was the team's third-leading tackler and figures to compete with fast redshirt freshman Danny Gorner for one spot. Broderick Newton leads on the other side.

The other lost starter, end Mike Montgomery, was the heart and soul of last season's defense, but plenty of veterans are prepared to step up. Free safety Jaxson Appel will be a four-year starter and has led the team in tackles each of the past two seasons.

Third-year starting tackle Johnny Jolly is coming off his best season. Tackle Red Bryant was a first-team Freshman All-America choice. Same for defensive end Jason Jack.

Justin Warren and Archie McDaniel got all the starts at middle linebacker, while Lee Foliaki and Renuel Greene each got eight starts at outside 'backer. Strong safety Japhus Brown led the Aggies with three interceptions.

Kicker Todd Pegram had one of those dream games last season, booting five field goals to beat Colorado, including the tying and winning kicks in overtime. He's made 73.2 percent of his kicks in three seasons.

TEXAS TECH

RED RAIDERS

LUBBOCK, TEXAS

2004 Record: 8-4 overall, 5-3 Big 12 (beat California in the Holiday Bowl, 45-31)

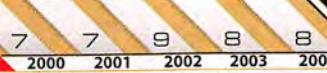
Turf: Artificial

Capacity: 51,389

Stadium: Jones SBC Stadium

Official athletic Web site: www.texastech.collegesports.com

FIVE-YEAR WINS TREND



PRESEASON RANK:

4

Head coach: Mike Leach, 6th Year (39-25) Career Record: 39-25

Assistant coaches: Bill Bedenbaugh (off. line), Dave Brown (secondary), Sonny Dykes (co-off. coord./WRs), Dana Holgerson (co-off. coord./inside receivers), Carlos Mainord (safeties), Ruffin McNeill (asst. head coach), Charlie Sadler (def. ends), Lyle Setencich (def. coord./LBs), Seth Littrell (RBs)



TAUREAN HENDERSON, RB

Another talented senior takes the reins at quarterback, but improving defense could be the story in Lubbock

Name the only Big 12 school with a winning overall record in all nine years of conference play?

Yep, Texas Tech.

And thank you very much Kansas State and Nebraska, for posing losing records in 2004 and falling from the list.

But for a program that goes to bowl games every year, expectations have been relatively low in Lubbock. Hey, postseason play is wonderful, especially when it happens as consistently as it does at Tech, but that's as far as it goes.

The Red Raiders have finished second three times in nine Big 12 seasons, once since 1999. They're always competitive, but a shot at the top is difficult when Oklahoma and Texas must be scaled.

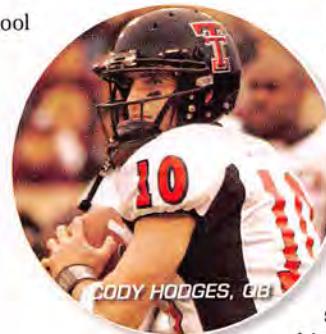
The Sooners and Longhorns are favored once again, but Tech enters this season with a different feeling. Maybe this is the year for the Red Raiders.

Why the optimism? Tech's resounding victory over fourth-ranked California in the Holiday Bowl was one of the most significant triumphs in school history. Tech finished 8-4 and climbed into the final polls for the first time since 1995. With 16 returning starters, the program is as confident as it has ever been.

"That game proved that with a lot of hard work anything can be accomplished," halfback Danny Amendola told reporters during spring workouts. "We play some good teams, like Oklahoma and Texas. Some may not pick us to beat them, but maybe there are few more surprises in the works."

For that to happen, Tech has to develop its next 4,000-yard quarterback. That shouldn't be a problem since the previous three—Kliff Kingsbury, B.J. Symons and Sonnie Cumbie—led the nation in passing in each of the last three years.

Symons and Cumbie didn't start until their senior seasons, and that appears to be the case for this season's favorite, senior Cody Hodges. He emerged from spring practice as the starter and fits the profile of the latest run of Tech throwers.



CODY HODGES, QB

Hodges has been a reserve the last two seasons, absorbing the intricacies of the Tech offense. He completed 20 of 26 passes for 237 yards in the spring game. Although coach Mike Leach won't name a starter until fall camp, he says Hodges is the favorite. His top competitor is redshirt freshman Graham Harrell, who missed the spring scrimmage with a cracked bone in his right leg.

Tech is one of a few schools where a quarterback change doesn't slow the offense, and the Red Raiders will continue to churn this season with weapons like Taurean Henderson and Jarrett Hicks.

Henderson, a senior running back with 236 career receptions, will become the program's leader in that category with 24 this season. He has also rushed for 2,369 yards in his career and found the end zone 49 times.

Hicks, a wide receiver, caught 76 passes and for a school-record 13 touchdown receptions. He had nine catches and two touchdowns against California.

Guard Manuel Ramirez and tackle E.J. Whitley return on the offensive line.

Tech developed depth on defense in the spring because of injuries to projected starters. The spring also allowed Vincent Meeks to adjust after his move from free safety to strong safety. The move was made to get Dwayne Slay into the starting lineup.

Along the line, end Seth Nitschmann and tackles Chris Hudler and Dek Blake are back, along with linebackers John Saldi and Brock Stratton.

Tech's defense improved tremendously last season under coordinator Lyle Setencich. In 2003, the Red Raiders ranked 100th or higher on all four major defensive lists. Last year, Tech ranked 15th in pass defense, 46th in total defense, 67th in scoring defense and 77th in rush defense.

When a team averages 36 points and 491 yards per game like Tech did last year, a "Steel Curtain" defense isn't needed. Just a competent one. That's what the Red Raiders were last year, and a little more improvement this season could push them closer to the top of the Big 12.

2005 SCHEDULE

| DATE | OPPONENT | '04 RESULT |
|-------|-----------------------|------------|
| S. 10 | Florida International | |
| S. 17 | Sam Houston State | |
| S. 24 | Indiana State | |
| O. 1 | Kansas | 31-30 |
| O. 8 | @NEBRASKA | 70-10 |
| O. 15 | Kansas State | 35-25 |
| O. 22 | @TEXAS | 21-51 |
| O. 29 | @Baylor | 42-17 |
| N. 5 | Texas A&M | 25-32 (OT) |
| N. 12 | @OKLAHOMA STATE | 31-15 |
| N. 19 | Oklahoma | 13-28 |

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 16
Lettermen returning/lost: 47/22

OFFENSE

| | |
|----|---------------------------------------|
| QB | 10 Cody Hodges (6-1, 211, Sr.) |
| RB | 19 Taurean Henderson (5-10, 205, Sr.) |
| HB | 20 Danny Amendola (5-11, 174, So.) |
| LT | 69 Glenn January (6-7, 296, Jr.) |
| LG | 62 Bryan Kegans (6-5, 290, Sr.) |
| C | 73 Brandon Jones (6-4, 290, Jr.) |
| RG | 63 Manuel Ramirez (6-4, 333, Jr.) |
| RT | 75 E.J. Whitley (6-6, 293, Sr.) |
| WR | 88 Jarrett Hicks (6-4, 209, Jr.) |
| WR | 86 L.A. Reed (6-2, 189, r-Fr.) |
| WR | 8 Joel Filani (6-3, 214, Jr.) |

DEFENSE

| | |
|-----|---------------------------------------|
| LE | 92 Seth Nitschmann (6-4, 257, Jr.) |
| NT | 93 Chris Hudler (6-3, 285, Jr.) |
| RT | 51 Dek Blake (6-6, 260, Sr.) |
| RE | 96 Keyunta Dawson (6-2, 259, Jr.) |
| SLB | 5 Josh Saldi (6-5, 239, Sr.) |
| MLB | 45 Brock Stratton (5-11, 231, Jr.) |
| WLB | 42 Fletcher Session (6-0, 226, Jr.) |
| LCB | 36 Antonio Huffman (6-0, 180, Jr.) |
| RCB | 26 Khalid Naziruddin (5-10, 180, Sr.) |
| FS | 3 Dwayne Slay (6-3, 215, Sr.) |
| SS | 1 Vincent Meeks (6-0, 206, Sr.) |

SPECIALISTS

| | |
|----|---------------------------------|
| PK | 30 Alex Trlica (5-11, 175, So.) |
| P | 22 Alex Reyes (6-1, 226, Jr.) |

RATING THE RECRUITS

1. McKinley Dixon, DT
2. Louis Vasquez, OL
3. Todd Walker, WR
4. Edward Britton, RB
5. Chris Todd, QB

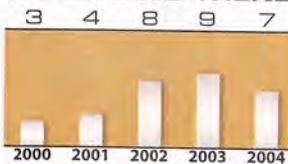
McKinley Dixon, DT
Top 20 tackle prospect had 12 sacks last season.
Louis Vasquez, OL
Potential LT allowed no sacks during his sr. year.
Todd Walker, WR
Ex-QB has worked with WRs since arriving in Jan.
Edward Britton, RB
Rushed for 2,172 yards at El Paso Montwood.
Chris Todd, QB
Threw for nearly 11,000 yards as Tennessee prep.

OKLAHOMA STATE COWBOYS



2004 Record: 7-5 overall, 4-4 Big 12
(lost to Ohio State in the Alamo Bowl, 33-7)
Official athletic Web site: www.okstate.com

FIVE-YEAR WINS TREND



2005 SCHEDULE

| DATE | OPPONENT | '04 RESULT |
|-------|-------------------|------------|
| S. 3 | Montana State | |
| S. 10 | @FLORIDA ATLANTIC | |
| S. 17 | Arkansas State | |
| O. 1 | Colorado | 42-14 |
| O. 8 | Missouri | 20-17 |
| O. 15 | @TEXAS A&M | 20-36 |
| O. 22 | @IOWA STATE | 36-7 |
| O. 29 | Texas | 35-56 |
| N. 5 | @OKLAHOMA | 35-38 |
| N. 12 | Texas Tech | 15-31 |
| N. 19 | @BAYLOR | 49-21 |

Head coach: Mike Gundy,
1st Year (0-0)

Career Record: 0-0

Stadium: Boone Pickens Stadium

Turf: Artificial

Capacity: 48,000

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 15
Lettermen returning/lost: 56/24

OFFENSE

| | | |
|----|----|-------------------------------------|
| QB | 8 | Donovan Woods (6-2, 215, So.) |
| FB | 37 | Shawn Willis (6-1, 255, Sr.) |
| RB | 29 | Mike Hamilton (6-1, 230, So.) |
| LT | 71 | Charlie Johnson (6-4, 280, Sr.) |
| LG | 66 | Corey Curtis (6-4, 290, Sr.) |
| C | 63 | David Washington (6-4, 275, r-Fr.) |
| RG | 75 | Corey Hilliard (6-5, 300, Jr.) |
| RT | 78 | Kellen Davis (6-5, 290, Sr.) |
| TE | 87 | Brandon Pettigrew (6-5, 230, r-Fr.) |
| WR | 84 | D'Juan Woods (6-1, 195, Jr.) |
| WR | 24 | Luke Frazier (6-0, 205, Sr.) |

DEFENSE

| | | |
|-----|----|---------------------------------------|
| DE | 50 | Darnell Smith (6-0, 260, Jr.) |
| DT | 96 | Ryan McBean (6-5, 275, Jr.) |
| DT | 51 | Xavier Lawson-Kennedy (6-1, 310, Jr.) |
| RE | 97 | Marque Fountain (6-1, 255, Jr.) |
| LB | 99 | Lawrence Pinson (6-1, 240, Sr.) |
| LB | 12 | Paul Duren (6-1, 240, Sr.) |
| LB | 41 | Pagitte McGee (6-1, 235, Sr.) |
| LCB | 4 | Daniel McLemore (5-7, 160, Sr.) |
| RCB | 20 | Vernon Grant (5-9, 195, Jr.) |
| FS | 23 | Jamie Thompson (6-0, 190, Sr.) |
| SS | 10 | Thomas Wright (5-11, 185, Sr.) |

SPECIALISTS

| | | |
|----|----|------------------------------|
| PK | 47 | Jason Ricks (6-1, 180, So.) |
| P | 57 | Bruce Redden (5-9, 183, Fr.) |

It came as no shock that Les Miles didn't wrap up his career with Oklahoma State. Talk of Miles moving on started with the first of three straight bowl years in 2002. Most believed Michigan, his alma mater, would be the destination. And it may be, but Miles will have to win at LSU first.

The replacement search didn't take long. Assistant head coach and former OSU quarterback Mike Gundy got the call and the changes were immediate. On offense, the Cowboys changed to a no-huddle spread attack taught by new offensive coordinator Larry Fedora, who came from Florida.

New defensive coordinator Vance Bedford, most recently of the Chicago Bears, installed a 4-3.

With the changes came the usual amount of adjustment.

"But as spring practice progressed, our players did a good job picking up the systems, getting more comfortable," Gundy says. "I saw us starting to react more than think."

Like so many Big 12 schools, Oklahoma State goes into fall camp unsure of its starting quarterback. Three are in the mix.

Bobby Reid was penciled in as a starter for 2004, but a shoulder injury suffered last spring ended his freshman season. In stepped Donovan Woods, the younger brother of former OSU wide receiver Rashawn Woods and current end D'Juan Woods, and he guided the team to a 7-5 record.

Also in the mix is Al Pena, a reserve who played well during spring workouts. The competition could carry into the season, and the Cowboys could play more than one quarterback. It happened at Florida two years ago under Fedora when Ingle Martin and Chris Leak shared the role early on before Leak took control.

"It will be whatever works best for this football team," Fedora says.

Whoever calls signals, you can bet the Cowboys will be flinging it more than in recent years. Last season, Oklahoma State averaged 17 passes per game. Fedora's offense at Florida averaged exactly double that number.

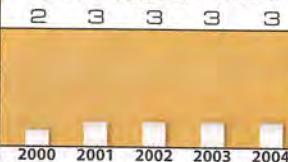
The Cowboys will miss running back Verne Morency, who left for the NFL after a 1,454-yard season and was a third-round pick.

BAYLOR BEARS



2004 Record: 3-8 overall, 1-7 Big 12
Official athletic Web site: www.baylorbears.com

FIVE-YEAR WINS TREND



2005 SCHEDULE

| DATE | OPPONENT | '04 RESULT |
|-------|----------------|------------|
| S. 3 | @SMU | |
| S. 10 | Samford | |
| S. 17 | @ARMY | |
| O. 1 | @TEXAS A&M | 35-34 (OT) |
| O. 8 | @IOWA STATE | 25-26 |
| O. 15 | Nebraska | 27-59 |
| O. 22 | @OKLAHOMA | 0-35 |
| O. 29 | Texas Tech | 17-42 |
| N. 5 | Texas | 14-44 |
| N. 12 | @MISSOURI | 10-30 |
| N. 19 | Oklahoma State | 21-49 |

Head coach: Guy Morriss,

3rd Year (6-17)

Career Record: 15-31

Stadium: Floyd Casey Stadium

Turf: Grass

Capacity: 50,000

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 13
Lettermen returning/lost: 48/18

OFFENSE

| | | |
|----|----|-----------------------------------|
| QB | 11 | Shawn Bell (6-1, 207, Jr.) |
| FB | 47 | Damon Dotson (5-9, 207, Jr.) |
| TB | 17 | Paul Mosley (6-3, 230, Jr.) |
| LT | 67 | Travis Farst (6-7, 329, Jr.) |
| LG | 77 | Lequalan McDonald (6-5, 349, Sr.) |
| C | 50 | Will Blaylock (6-2, 308, Jr.) |
| RG | 76 | Yancy Boatner (6-4, 336, Jr.) |
| RT | 68 | Nick Pace (6-3, 270, So.) |
| TE | 81 | Mike Miller (6-3, 245, So.) |
| WR | 7 | Dominique Zeigler (6-3, 180, Jr.) |
| WR | 1 | Trent Shelton (6-2, 206, Jr.) |

DEFENSE

| | | |
|----|----|-----------------------------------|
| DE | 90 | Marcus Foreman (6-2, 239, Jr.) |
| DT | 99 | M.T. Robinson (6-1, 294, Jr.) |
| DT | 92 | Michael Gary (6-3, 300, Sr.) |
| DE | 95 | Montez Murphy (6-6, 265, Sr.) |
| LB | 34 | Colin Allred (6-2, 245, Sr.) |
| LB | 16 | Jamaal Harper (6-0, 228, Sr.) |
| OS | 18 | Willie Andrews (5-10, 190, Sr.) |
| CB | 38 | Alton Widemon (5-11, 180, So.) |
| CB | 6 | Anthony Arline (6-2, 193, Jr.) |
| FS | 21 | Maurice Lane (5-11, 190, Sr.) |
| OS | 15 | Maurice Linguist (5-10, 204, Jr.) |

SPECIALISTS

| | | |
|----|----|---------------------------------|
| PK | 43 | Ryan Havens (5-10, 192, Jr.) |
| P | 37 | Daniel Sepulveda (6-3, 22, Jr.) |

If it weren't for bad luck ...

Baylor went into spring workouts with quality depth at quarterback for the first time in coach Guy Morriss's three years. So what happens?

Sophomore Terrance Parks, who was having a terrific spring, broke the index finger on his right (throwing) hand and tore a ligament requiring surgery and a two-month absence. This after 2004 opening-game starter Dane King transferred to a Division II program.

"We went from good depth to [having] one standing," Morriss says.

The program turned up the search for a junior-college quarterback. Meanwhile, Shawn Bell will be the starter by default. But Bell has delivered before. He was the starter when the Bears knocked off Texas A&M last season.

That victory over the Aggies gave Baylor two quality league triumphs in two years (Colorado in 2003) and proof that the Bears—when everything is going right—can compete in the Big 12. With more depth this season and several transfers from Division I-A programs, Baylor looks to inch ahead even more.

Progress will come if Baylor continues to improve on the front lines. The offensive line should be its best in years. Center Will Blaylock, a transfer from Tulane, leads the group. Nick Pace was the team's best lineman two years ago, but missed last year with a back injury.

Three other transfers who sat out last season are set to go: tight end Jordan Adams (New Mexico), linebacker Nick Moore (Georgia Tech) and cornerback Alton Widemon (Tulane).

"They're all good players and will end up playing major roles," Morriss says.

A key to the Bears will be turnover ratio. Baylor finished 113th in the nation and last in the Big 12 last year in that important statistic.

Safety Maurice Lane led the Big 12 in solo tackles with 77, and if he doesn't have as many this season the defense will have improved.

Baylor's best weapon is punter Daniel Sepulveda, the Ray Guy Award winner. He was the program's first all-conference player since 1996. No one knows exactly how many more points the Bears would have surrendered last season had Sepulveda not pinned opponents deep and often.

CONFERENCE USA PREDICTED ORDER OF FINISH:



EAST

**Will the Price be right for
Miners in first C-USA campaign?**

By Jimmie Tramel
Tulsa World

First things first: Exactly who is in Conference USA nowadays?

The collegiate landscape shifted again, leaving Memphis, Southern Miss, Houston, UAB, Tulane and East Carolina as the remaining C-USA members from last season.

Six new tenants were added. SMU, Rice, Tulsa, and UTEP left the Western Athletic Conference to come aboard. Marshall and Central Florida said goodbye to the Mid-American Conference and hello to C-USA.

The reconstructed league was split into two six-team geographical divisions. The East and West champs will meet in a postseason championship game and it will be staged at the site of the school with the best winning percentage in conference games.

Five C-USA members—Memphis, Southern Miss, UAB, Marshall and UTEP—played in bowl games last season and the league's balance of power would seem to be in the East since UTEP is the only bowl qualifier in the West. The Miners are, no surprise, the favorite to win the West, but parity could reign supreme in both divisions.

The East has the look of a three-team race—and possibly a four-team race if Marshall is able to overcome the loss of key players and head coach Bob Pruett, who retired before spring drills. Southern Miss, Memphis and UAB all seem equipped to make a run at a division title.

After UTEP, the pecking order in the West could be difficult to determine because no other team produced a winning record last season. Tulane won five games, but lost head-to-head to Houston, which won three games and returns significant offensive firepower.

Tulsa, SMU and Rice took turns beating each other in the WAC last season, so who is better? The Golden Hurricane probably deserves an edge based on a "quality" victory over UTEP in a regular season finale. Stay tuned to see if two Hurricane basketball players, Jarius Glenn and Seneca Collins, are able to make an impact when they put on pads this fall.

Conference USA's new scheduling format calls for teams to play every opponent in their division plus three teams from the opposite division. Perhaps teams with favorable schedules can capitalize on the advantage and contend for a title.

Rating the players

| | |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------|
| Fastest receiver | Johnnie Lee Higgins, UTEP |
| Best hands | Garrett Mills, TE, Tulsa |
| Best passing QB | Darrell Hackney, UAB |
| Best running QB | Joel Armstrong, Rice |
| Most elusive RB | DeAngelo Williams, Memphis |
| Best instincts | Trevis Caley, LB, Southern Miss |
| Best under pressure | Kevin Kolb, QB, Houston |
| Top NFL prospect | DeAngelo Williams, Memphis |
| Top impact freshman | Carlton Robinzine, WR, Memphis |
| Harshest hitter | Curtis Keyes, Marshall |
| Biggest underachiever | Rice's special teams |

Rating the coaches

| | |
|-------------------|-------------------------|
| Best strategist | Mike Price, UTEP |
| Best recruiter | Steve Kragthorpe, Tulsa |
| Coach on the spot | George O'Leary, UCF |

Don't be surprised if ...

Opponents kick the ball away from Tulsa's Ashlan Davis. He set an NCAA record by returning five kickoffs for touchdowns last season. Davis needs one more to tie the NCAA career record.

One man's opinion

"I think Thomas Howard, our linebacker, from what a lot of people tell me is maybe one of the best in the state of Texas. He's 6-3 and runs a 4.37 and won a slam dunk contest that we had for our team. He is a specimen."

—UTEP coach Mike Price

Games to watch:

>> Memphis at Southern Miss, Nov. 19

Could be for Eastern Division title.

>> UTEP at Memphis, Oct. 1

Miners play only two C-USA games at non-Texas sites

>> Southern Miss at UAB, Oct. 21

ESPN will televise Friday night showdown.

official conference website:
www.conferenceusa.com

**Street & Smith's
ALL-CONFERENCE**

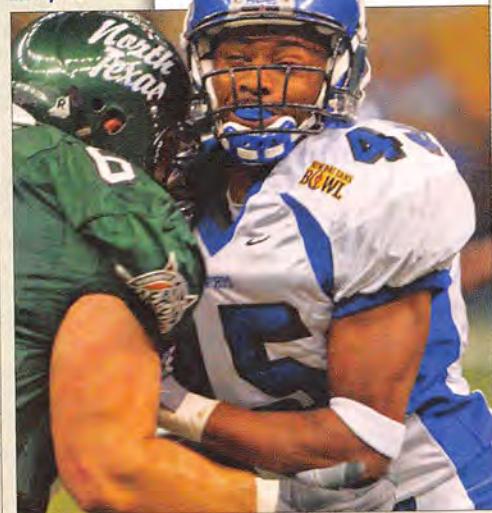
Offense

| | |
|----|-----------------------------------|
| QB | Darrell Hackney, Sr., UAB |
| RB | DeAngelo Williams, Sr., Memphis |
| RB | Uril Parrish, Sr., Tulsa |
| OL | Toby Bullock, Sr., Marshall |
| OL | Matt Batusic, Sr., UAB |
| OL | Blake Butler, Jr., Memphis |
| OL | Travis Cooley, Jr., Southern Miss |
| OL | Jeff Perrett, Jr., Tulsa |
| WR | Vincent Marshall, Sr., Houston |
| WR | Jayson Boyd, Sr., UTEP |
| TE | Garrett Mills, Sr., Tulsa |
| PK | Stephen Gotskowski, Sr., Memphis |

Defense

| | |
|----|----------------------------------|
| DL | John Syptak, Sr., Rice |
| DL | Chris Mineo, Sr., UTEP |
| DL | Larry McSwain, Jr., UAB |
| DL | Marcus West, Sr., Memphis |
| LB | Nick Bunting, Jr., Tulsa |
| LB | Chris Moore, Sr., East Carolina |
| LB | Anthony Cannon, Sr., Tulane |
| DB | Chris Royal, Sr., Marshall |
| DB | John Eubanks, Sr., Southern Miss |
| DB | Wesley Smith, Sr., Memphis |
| DB | Curtis Keyes, Jr., Marshall |
| P | Chris Beckman, Jr., Tulane |

**Wesley Smith,
Memphis**



Rating the recruits

| | |
|-------------------|--|
| 1. Tulane | Top WAC class in '04 and top C-USA class in '05, according to Rivals.com. |
| 2. UAB | Juco DB and former Alabama signee Chris Felder should help secondary. |
| 3. UCF | Richard Clark among nation's best center prospects. |
| 4. Marshall | RB Lenford "Chubb" Small cream of nation's prep school crop. |
| 5. Southern Miss | Jeff Bowler invaded Georgia for standout DL B.J. Wright. |
| 6. SMU | Juco DB Randal Goode, a former high school sprinter, might contribute immediately. |
| 7. UTEP | Quarterback Brandis Dew among most decorated signees in Miner history. |
| 8. Houston | Wideout Jevon Harvey gives QB Kevin Kolb yet another target. |
| 9. Memphis | Tailback T.J. Pitts serving apprenticeship under DeAngelo Williams. |
| 10. Rice | Center Robby Hamilton of Sugar Land is sweet addition. |
| 11. Tulane | Tight end Justin Kessler was among top prospects in Texas. |
| 12. East Carolina | Athletic Terrill Hudgins, former high school QB, is capable of playing many positions. |



JOHN EUBANKS, CB



SOUTHERN MISS

GOLDEN EAGLES

HATTIESBURG, MISS.

2004 Record: 7-5 overall, 5-3 C-USA (beat North Texas in the New Orleans Bowl, 31-10)

Stadium: M.M. Roberts Stadium

Turf: Artificial

Capacity: 33,000

Official athletic Web site: www.southernmiss.com

PRESEASON RANK:

FIVE-YEAR WINS TREND

1

8 6 7 9 7

2000 2001 2002 2003 2004



Head coach: Jeff Bower, 14th Year (96-67-1) Career Record: 96-67-1

Assistant coaches: Randy Butler (asst. head coach/TEs), Jay Hopson (def. coord./def. backs), Jay Johnson (off. coord./QBs), Ron McCrone (def. ends), Courtney Messingham (WRs), Derrick Nix (RBs), Lytel Pollard (LBs), Mitch Rodrigue (off. line), Fred Tate (def. tackles)

2005 SCHEDULE

| DATE | OPPONENT | '04 RESULT |
|-------|-----------------------|------------|
| S. 4 | Tulane | 32-14 |
| S. 10 | @ALABAMA | 3-27 |
| S. 17 | McNeese State | |
| S. 24 | @HOUSTON | 35-29 (OT) |
| O. 1 | @EAST CAROLINA | 51-10 |
| O. 8 | Tulsa | |
| O. 15 | UCF | |
| O. 21 | @UAB | 26-21 |
| O. 29 | @NORTH CAROLINA STATE | |
| N. 8 | @MARSHALL | |
| N. 19 | Memphis | 26-30 |

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 17
Lettermen returning/lost: 43/19

OFFENSE

| | |
|----|--------------------------------------|
| QB | 9 Dustin Almond (6-2, 214, r-Sr.) |
| FB | 3 Anthony Harris (5-11, 220, r-Sr.) |
| RB | 8 Larry Thomas (6-0, 197, r-So.) |
| LT | 75 Chris Clark (6-4, 280, r-So.) |
| LG | 55 Travis Cooley (6-2, 285, r-Jr.) |
| C | 56 Robby D'Angelo (6-1, 277, r-Jr.) |
| RG | 70 George Batiste (6-5, 309, r-Jr.) |
| RT | 73 Neal Mead (6-4, 314, r-Sr.) |
| TE | 48 Jonathan Palmer (6-3, 248, r-Jr.) |
| FL | 82 Tavarres Williams (6-0, 182, So.) |
| SE | 80 Antwon Courington (6-2, 209, Sr.) |

DEFENSE

| | |
|-----|--|
| DE | 47 Matthew Chatelain (6-2, 245, r-Jr.) |
| NT | 90 Tom Johnson (6-3, 277, Sr.) |
| DT | 95 Terrance Ford (6-1, 300, Sr.) |
| BAN | 50 Akeem Lockett (6-2, 250, Sr.) |
| SLB | 49 Naton Stewart (6-3, 246, r-Sr.) |
| MLB | 45 Kevin Coley (6-1, 226, r-Jr.) |
| WLB | 18 Trevis Coley (6-1, 221, r-Jr.) |
| CB | 14 Caleb Hendrix (5-10, 185, Jr.) |
| CB | 1 John Eubanks (5-11, 175, r-Sr.) |
| FS | 12 Darrell Bennett (6-0, 210, r-Jr.) |
| ROV | 6 Brandon Sumrall (5-11, 185, So.) |

SPECIALISTS

| | |
|----|------------------------------------|
| PK | 16 Darren McCaleb (5-11, 165, Jr.) |
| P | 17 Luke Johnson (6-0, 240, r-Sr.) |

Ever-consistent Golden Eagles will give Bower his 12th straight winning season—and much more

For all you newcomers to Conference USA, the university in Hattiesburg, Miss., is Southern Miss. The school's football team is called the Golden Eagles. You can just call them "consistent."

Southern Miss is one of only eight Division I-A schools which has produced 11 consecutive winning seasons. The Golden Eagles have been to seven bowls in the last eight years, including three straight.

So, despite all the comings and goings in C-USA, is there any doubt coach Jeff Bower's team will find a way to finish near the top again?

Bower, who returns 17 starters from a team that went 7-5 last season, would feel better about his chances if the defense returns to vintage form.

Southern Miss ranked 15th or better nationally in scoring defense every year from 1999 until 2003, but the Golden Eagles slipped to 54th nationally last season.

It should be noted that Southern Miss still managed to rank third or better among C-USA teams in most defensive categories last season, but that's substandard compared to the achievements of previous Golden Eagle defensive units.

"We had about five games where we gave up 400 yards of offense," Bower says. "That's not Southern Miss defense."

The Golden Eagles lost four of their last five regular season games and gave up 150 points during the four defeats.

Bower says a real key this season will be the play of the defensive line.

"We gave up too many yards running the football last year and I just don't think we have been as good there as we need to be," he says. "Some guys have the potential to be good, but we've got a lot of growing up to do between now and the end of the season."

The Golden Eagles ranked seventh among C-USA teams and 76th nationally against the run last season. Defensive line starters Matthew Chatelain and Terrance Ford return and the linebacking corps may have opponents seeing double.

Kevin Coley is a middle linebacker who was a part-time starter last season and twin brother Trevis Coley, who was a starter at free safety last season, auditioned at outside linebacker during spring drills.

"We are pretty thin at linebacker and we wanted to see whether or not he could play there should that

need to happen and he proved that he could," Bower says. "Our preference is we would like to have him at safety if we can get kids to step up at linebacker."

Cover corner and special-teams standout John Eubanks (he ranked fifth nationally as a kick returner in 2004) will need to be a playmaker in the secondary. Akeem Lockett, who plays the bandit position, also is a returning starter along with defensive backs Caleb Hendrix and Darrell Bennett.

Give Southern Miss credit for forging a winning record and winning a bowl game despite an offense which ranked 10th among C-USA teams in both total yards and passing efficiency last season.

"We've got to be more high-percentage throwing the football," Bower says, adding that quarterback Dustin Almond must be more consistent. "He has been a little up and down coming into his senior year."

Bower also points to a need to run better. He says the Golden Eagles' ground game was sometimes good and sometimes not very good last season.

Anthony Harris, a former starting tailback, was moved to fullback during spring drills. The Golden Eagles also return incumbent fullback Bobby Weakley.

Bower said fullback is Harris' natural position. "We had some younger kids that were a little faster and have a little more big play ability that we really wanted to give as many snaps as we possibly could [at tailback] this spring and I think that has turned out to be a good move. Anthony did a good job for us at fullback. He can catch the ball and do some things there. He could still be the one back for us when we get back in that offense."

Larry Thomas is expected to be the new starter at tailback and will run behind an offensive line with returning starters Travis Cooley and George Batiste.

Antwon Courington, who led the team in catches and receiving yards as a junior, is the headliner of a receiving corps that could be a team strength.

"I think Courington will be a big key for us," Bower says. "I don't think he has played up to his potential, to be honest with you. If we can get his attention a little bit more and get him to step up, he's got a chance to be a difference-maker."

The coaching staff will have a bit of a different look, including new offensive and defensive coordinators.

MEMPHIS

TIGERS



MEMPHIS, TENN.

2004 Record: 8-4 overall, 5-3 C-USA (lost to Bowling Green in the GMAC Bowl, 52-35)

Turf: Artificial

Capacity: 62,380

Official athletic Web site: www.gotigersgo.com



FIVE-YEAR WINS TREND

| | | | | |
|------|------|------|------|------|
| 4 | 5 | 3 | 9 | 8 |
| 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 |

PRESEASON RANK:

2

Head coach: Tommy West, 5th Year (25-23) Career Record: 60-58
Assistant coaches: Randy Fichtner (off. coord./OBs), Rick Mallory (off. line), Tyson Helton (special teams/TEs), Clay Helton (WRs), Jeep Hunter (RBs), Joe Lee Dunn (def. coord.), Craig Boller (def. line), Tim Keane (secondary), Chris Rumph (OLBs)

All-everything tailback

Williams may strike the pose by season's end

Can a player from a non-BCS conference win the Heisman Trophy? Memphis running back DeAngelo Williams will chase college football's biggest prize.

Williams enters his senior year as the NCAA's active career leader in rushing touchdowns, rushing yards, yards per carry and all-purpose yards. He ranked second nationally among Division I-A players with a school-record 1,948 rushing yards last season, helping the Tigers reach bowl games in back-to-back years for the first time.

Williams, who averages 6.2 yards per carry, announced in January that he would bypass early entry in the NFL Draft and return for a farewell season. Coach Tommy West believes Williams can be a top 15 pick in the 2006 draft. "He's that good," West says.

West says Williams possesses the "whole package," including speed, vision, patience, toughness and the ability to catch the ball out of the backfield.

"I can't compare him because I haven't coached the other guys," West says. "But I think he's the equivalent athletically of a Marshall Faulk and he has patience like Emmitt Smith. I thought Emmitt Smith had great patience. DeAngelo has everything. If he stays healthy, he is going to go on and do a lot more once he leaves here."

West believes Williams is a legitimate Heisman contender. The Tigers can boost Williams' candidacy by winning lots of games. They went 8-4 last season, riding a high-octane offense that was held below 28 points just twice.

Williams' return guarantees that Memphis will excel at moving the chains again, but four-year starting quarterback Danny Wimprine must be replaced. Wimprine, who finished his career with more than 10,000 passing yards, ranked 26th nationally in total offense last season.

Wimprine's successor could be a kicker. Junior Patrick Byrne was originally signed as a kicker who would be given an opportunity to compete for playing time at quarterback. Byrne, who handled kickoff chores last season, ended spring drills as the leading candidate to start. If he is the main man next season, he will be relieved of kickoff duties.

None of the top three quarterback candidates has thrown a collegiate pass and, in terms of

development, none is where he "is going to need to be," West says.

That's the bad news.

"The good news is Patrick has made a lot of progress," West says.

"We are going to have to get a quarterback to a point where he won't hurt us. We can surround the guy with enough people to where all he has to do is get it in the hands of his people and not make mistakes. Our quarterback will not have to win games for us. We've got some pretty talented people we can put around him."

Among those talents are Williams, sophomore running back Joseph Doss and receivers Maurice Avery, Mario Pratcher and Ryan Scott.

"We've got some people that can make some plays for us," West says.

The offensive line must be reconstructed. Four starters, including two all-league players, had to be replaced. West says he was probably as pleased with the offensive line as any position group during spring drills.

"We are a little bit inexperienced, but I tell you what—we are going to be bigger and more physical up front than we have ever been," he says.

The lone returning offensive starter, 6-3, 280-pound junior Blake Butler, is moving from left guard to center. Former starter Andrew Handy, a 6-2, 310-pound senior who sat out last season to rehabilitate an injured ankle, is expected to return to duty. Sophomore Andy Smith (6-2, 290) had a tremendous spring, according to West. Towering junior Willie Henderson (6-7, 328) may be ready to cash in on a blue-chip reputation and sophomore Abraham Holloway (6-4, 312) also casts a significant shadow.

Memphis returns seven defensive starters, including free safety Wesley Smith and end Marcus West. Perhaps the experience will help the Tigers plug some leaks. Memphis averaged 35.8 points last season and, because of a charitable defense, outscored opponents by an average of only four and a half points.

Tommy West says his team, which ranked 114th nationally in passing yards allowed last season, must get better cornerback play. "We're a blitz team and if you are going to be a blitz team, you have to be good enough at corner. We weren't good enough at corner."

West said the quality of cornerback play was better—but still not good enough—in the spring.



DeANGELO WILLIAMS, RB

2005 SCHEDULE

| DATE | OPPONENT | '04 RESULT |
|-------|----------------|------------|
| S. 5 | Mississippi | 20-13 |
| S. 17 | Chattanooga | 52-21 |
| S. 24 | @TULSA | |
| O. 1 | UTEP | |
| O. 8 | @UCF | |
| O. 15 | @HOUSTON | 41-14 |
| O. 22 | East Carolina | 38-35 |
| N. 1 | UAB | 28-35 |
| N. 12 | @TENNESSEE | |
| N. 19 | @SOUTHERN MISS | 30-26 |
| N. 26 | Marshall | |

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 12
Lettermen returning/lost: 38/26

OFFENSE

| | | |
|----|----|------------------------------------|
| QB | 19 | Patrick Byrne (6-1, 211, Jr.) |
| RB | 20 | DeAngelo Williams (5-10, 217, Sr.) |
| LT | 65 | Abraham Holloway (6-4, 312, So.) |
| LG | 75 | Andrew Handy (6-2, 310, Sr.) |
| C | 63 | Blake Butler (6-3, 280, Jr.) |
| RG | 54 | Willie Henderson (6-7, 328, Jr.) |
| RT | 59 | Bruce McCaleb (6-2, 278, Jr.) |
| TE | 82 | John Doucette (6-2, 265, Sr.) |
| WR | 83 | Ryan Scott (6-4, 215, Jr.) |
| WR | 1 | Maurice Avery (6-1, 216, Sr.) |
| WR | 84 | Mario Pratcher (6-4, 211, Sr.) |

DEFENSE

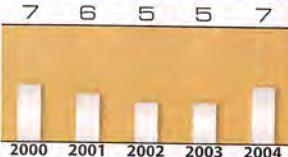
| | | |
|-----|----|---------------------------------|
| LE | 43 | Marcus West (6-4, 260, Sr.) |
| NG | 62 | Ryan Williams (6-2, 290, Fr.) |
| RE | 99 | Rubio Phillips (6-2, 250, Sr.) |
| OLB | 10 | Carlton Baker (6-2, 232, Sr.) |
| MLB | 41 | Tim Goodwell (6-2, 229, Sr.) |
| OLB | 30 | Quinton McCrary (6-2, 222, Jr.) |
| RS | 21 | Derek Clenin (5-9, 195, Jr.) |
| LBC | 26 | Dustin Lopez (5-10, 191, Jr.) |
| RCB | 40 | O.C. Collins (6-0, 185, Sr.) |
| FS | 45 | Wesley Smith (6-3, 194, Sr.) |
| LS | 47 | Jake Kasser (5-10, 190, So.) |

SPECIALISTS

| | | |
|----|----|------------------------------------|
| PK | 32 | Stephen Gostkowski (6-2, 200, Sr.) |
| P | 34 | Michael Gibson (6-2, 190, Jr.) |

**UAB****BLAZERS**

2004 Record: 7-5 overall, 5-3 C-USA
(lost to Hawaii in the Hawaii Bowl, 59-40)
Official athletic Web site: www.uabsports.com

FIVE-YEAR WINS TREND**2005 SCHEDULE**

| DATE | OPPONENT | '04 RESULT |
|-------|--------------------|------------|
| S. 3 | @TENNESSEE | |
| S. 10 | @TROY | |
| S. 17 | Jacksonville State | |
| O. 1 | Rice | |
| O. 8 | Southern Methodist | |
| O. 15 | @MARSHALL | |
| O. 21 | Southern Miss | 21-26 |
| N. 1 | @MEMPHIS | 35-28 |
| N. 12 | UCF | |
| N. 19 | @UTEP | |
| N. 26 | @EAST CAROLINA | |

Head coach: Watson Brown,
11th Year (54-59)

Career Record: 79-131-1

Stadium: Legion Field

Turf: Grass

Capacity: 72,000

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 16
Lettermen returning/lost: 58/19

OFFENSE

| | |
|-----------|-------------------------------------|
| QB | 4 Darrell Hackney (6-1, 235, Sr.) |
| FB | 33 Nolan Hughey (6-0, 210, r-Fr.) |
| RB | 34 Dan Burks (6-1, 218, Jr.) |
| LT | 69 Cornelius Rogers (6-4, 320, Jr.) |
| LG | 69 Quinton Harris (6-4, 330, Jr.) |
| C | 50 Matt Batusic (6-3, 300, Sr.) |
| RG | 61 Adam Truit (6-3, 310, So.) |
| RT | 78 Julius Wilson (6-5, 310, Sr.) |
| TE | 80 Cedric Hampton (6-4, 275, Sr.) |
| FL | 11 Reggie Lindsey (5-10, 185, Sr.) |
| WR | 29 Nick Coon (6-1, 180, Jr.) |

DEFENSE

| | |
|------------|--------------------------------------|
| DE | 44 Larry McSwain (6-1, 250, Jr.) |
| NT | 76 Ernest Respress (6-5, 300, Sr.) |
| DT | 90 Sam Williamson (6-5, 295, Sr.) |
| DE | 98 Jermaine McElveen (6-5, 250, Jr.) |
| SLB | 55 Marcus Mark (6-2, 225, Jr.) |
| MLB | 41 Mastaki Smith (5-11, 230, Jr.) |
| WLB | 51 Joe Henderson (6-2, 230, r-Fr.) |
| LBC | 19 Carlos Hendricks (5-10, 195, Sr.) |
| RCB | 13 Will Evans (5-9, 175, Jr.) |
| FS | 21 Dominique Cosper (5-11, 190, Sr.) |
| SS | 31 Brandon Register (6-1, 190, Jr.) |

SPECIALISTS

| | |
|-----------|------------------------------------|
| PK | 86 Parker Mullins (5-11, 175, Jr.) |
| P | 86 Parker Mullins (5-11, 175, Jr.) |

Darrell Hackney, the only quarterback ever to lead Alabama-Birmingham to a bowl game, is back for an encore.

Hackney guided UAB to an appearance in the Hawaii Bowl as a junior last season and threw for 417 yards in the loss to Hawaii. This season, perhaps Hackney will get a chance to become the first quarterback ever to lead the Blazers to a bowl victory.

The pieces certainly seem to be in place for another bowl trip. Hackney, whose career totals include 6,706 passing yards and 49 touchdowns, is one of 16 returning starters from a team that went 7-5 last season. Hackney, who ranked 14th nationally in passing efficiency and 24th in total offense, will enter his farewell season in search of a new favorite target.

Gone is All-America receiver Roddy White, who set a Conference USA record for single-season receiving yards in 2004. Entering spring drills, coach Watson Brown wasn't sure if it would be up to an individual to fill White's shoes or whether the receiving corps would have to collectively make up for White's absence.

"We've changed some things a little bit in a philosophical way," Brown says. "Last year, we went at it with the approach of 'throw it to Roddy, if they'll let us. If they won't, then take it somewhere else.' I think now we've got to spread it around as a starting point. So, Darrell has to adjust to that and I thought he got better at it as spring went on."

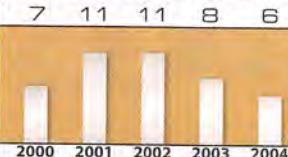
If the adjustment goes well, perhaps the Blazers can be as prolific as last season, when they ranked 23rd nationally in scoring.

Four offensive-line starters (Matt Batusic, Cornelius Rogers, Julius Wilson and Quinton Harris) are back to protect Hackney and open holes for running backs Dan Burks and Corey White, who combined for 1,469 rushing yards and 12 touchdowns last season. They averaged 5.4 yards per attempt.

Defensive end Larry McSwain, who led C-USA in sacks last season, and free safety Dominique Cosper, who led UAB in tackles, give the Blazers a pair of returning all-conference players on defense.

MARSHALL**THUNDERING HERD**

2004 Record: 6-6 overall, 6-2 MAC
(lost to Cincinnati in the Fort Worth Bowl, 32-14)
Official athletic Web site: www.herdzone.com

FIVE-YEAR WINS TREND**2005 SCHEDULE**

| DATE | OPPONENT | '04 RESULT |
|-------|--------------------|------------|
| S. 1 | William & Mary | |
| S. 10 | Kansas State | |
| S. 24 | @UCF | 20-3 |
| O. 1 | Southern Methodist | |
| O. 8 | @VIRGINIA TECH | |
| O. 15 | UAB | |
| O. 22 | @UTEP | |
| O. 29 | @TULANE | |
| N. 8 | Southern Miss | |
| N. 19 | East Carolina | |
| N. 26 | @MEMPHIS | |

Head coach: Mark Snyder,

1st Year (0-0)

Career Record: 0-0

Stadium: Joan C. Edwards Stadium

Turf: Artificial

Capacity: 38,019

PROJECTED STARTERS

| | |
|-----------|--------------------------------------|
| QB | 16 Jimmy Skinner (6-3, 190, Jr.) |
| RB | 44 Ahmad Bradshaw (5-11, 190, So.) |
| LT | 56 Toby Bullock (6-4, 340, Sr.) |
| LG | 74 David Ziegler (6-5, 288, So.) |
| C | 66 Doug Legursky (6-3, 308, So.) |
| RG | 63 John Inman (6-5, 314, So.) |
| RT | 73 Seth Cook (6-4, 315, Jr.) |
| TE | 85 Jeff Mullins (6-3, 255, Sr.) |
| WR | 22 Wilbur Hargrove (5-11, 180, Sr.) |
| WR | 1 Marcus Fitzgerald (5-10, 198, So.) |
| WR | 42 Shaun Lauzon (6-6, 204, So.) |

DEFENSE

| | |
|-----------|-------------------------------------|
| DE | 38 Demarcus Thomas (6-1, 235, Sr.) |
| DT | 52 Floyd Wright (6-0, 271, Sr.) |
| DT | 95 Roger Garrett (6-1, 286, Jr.) |
| DE | 54 Gavin Herscher (6-3, 243, Jr.) |
| LB | 47 Matt Couch (6-2, 230, Jr.) |
| LB | 30 Dennis Thornton (5-11, 210, Sr.) |
| LB | 39 Donté Newsome (5-11, 205, Sr.) |
| CB | 27 Willie Smith (6-0, 197, Sr.) |
| CB | 40 Chris Hawkins (5-10, 184, Jr.) |
| FS | 26 Chris Royal (5-9, 185, Sr.) |
| SS | 25 Curtis Keyes (6-0, 191, Jr.) |

SPECIALISTS

| | |
|-----------|---------------------------------|
| PK | 49 Ian O'Connor (6-2, 205, Jr.) |
| P | 49 Ian O'Connor (6-2, 205, Jr.) |

If Marshall law is going to reign supreme in Conference USA, the Thundering Herd will have to replace a lot of manpower.

Marshall lost eight starters on both sides of the ball and a head coach. Bob Pruett, who won 94 games in nine years, announced March 9 that he was retiring from coaching.

"My friends in coaching have always said you will know when the time comes and all of you will know when your time comes too," Pruett said at a farewell press conference. "I have been coaching football for 40 years and it is time that I spend more time with my family and be a fan."

Pruett guided Marshall to a Division I-AA national championship in 1996 and helped the Thundering Herd make the jump to I-A look relatively easy. Since joining I-A and the Mid-American Conference in 1997, Marshall won five league titles and made seven bowl trips in eight seasons.

By Herd standards, last year could be considered a down season. The team posted "only" a 6-6 record, but rebounded from getting swept in non-league games to go 6-2 against MAC foes. The league record would have been 7-1 if not for squandering a 28-7 second-half lead in a loss to Akron. But bottom line, Marshall went 21 straight seasons of non-losing seasons to 21 straight.

The man in charge of maintaining the streak is new head man Mark Snyder, a former Marshall player who spent the past four seasons, including one as defensive coordinator, at Ohio State.

"I have always been proud to have been a part of Marshall's resurgence in football and now I am honored to have the opportunity to return to my alma mater and lead Marshall into a new era," Snyder says.

Snyder inherits only two returning offensive starters in left tackle Toby Bullock and right tackle Seth Cook.

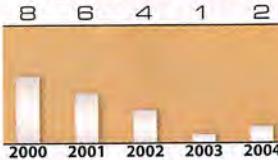
Bullock, a 6-foot-4, 330-pound senior, has started 24 consecutive games and will try to open holes for running back Ahmad Bradshaw, who ran for 462 yards (4.9 per carry) and three touchdowns as a true-freshman backup last season.

The Herd must replace star wideout Josh Davis, who finished his career second on the NCAA's all-time receptions list.

EAST CAROLINA

PIRATES

04 Record: 2-9 overall, 2-6 C-USA
Fiscal athletic Web site: www.ecupirates.com

**FIVE-YEAR WINS TREND****2005 SCHEDULE**

| DATE | OPPONENT | '04 RESULT |
|-------|---------------------|------------|
| S. 3 | Duke | |
| S. 17 | @WAKE FOREST | 17-31 |
| S. 24 | @WEST VIRGINIA | 23-56 |
| O. 1 | Southern Miss | 10-51 |
| O. 8 | Rice | |
| O. 15 | @SOUTHERN METHODIST | |
| O. 22 | @MEMPHIS | 35-38 |
| O. 29 | UCF | |
| N. 12 | @TULSA | |
| N. 19 | @MARSHALL | |
| N. 26 | UAB | |

Head coach: Skip Holtz,
1st Year (0-0)

Career Record: 0-0

Stadium: Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium

Turf: Grass

Capacity: 43,000

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 19
 Lettermen returning/lost: 47/15

OFFENSE

| | | |
|----|----|---------------------------------|
| QB | 3 | Davon Drew (6-4, 215, r-Fr.) |
| RB | 24 | Chris Johnson (5-11, 170, So.) |
| OT | 70 | Chris Sellers (6-2, 296, Sr.) |
| OG | 64 | Gary Freeman (6-1, 331, Sr.) |
| C | 77 | Drew Sutton (6-3, 272, Jr.) |
| OG | 60 | Trey Magee (6-4, 297, Sr.) |
| OT | 78 | Eric Graham (6-6, 312, Jr.) |
| TE | 89 | Sean Harmon (6-3, 277, Sr.) |
| WR | 39 | Aundrae Allison (6-0, 186, Jr.) |
| WR | 80 | Kevin Roach (6-4, 207, Jr.) |
| WR | 87 | Brian Howard (6-2, 170, Jr.) |

DEFENSE

| | | |
|----|----|-----------------------------------|
| DE | 55 | Shauntae Hunt (6-5, 268, Sr.) |
| NG | 96 | Mark Robinson (6-2, 255, So.) |
| DT | 99 | Dontre Brown (6-1, 287, Jr.) |
| DE | 47 | Lorenza Pickett (6-1, 233, Sr.) |
| LB | 11 | Richard Koonce (6-0, 237, Sr.) |
| LB | 48 | Durwin Lamb (6-1, 223, So.) |
| LB | 98 | Jarrett Wiggins (6-3, 206, r-Fr.) |
| CB | 6 | Demetrius Hodges (5-9, 191, Sr.) |
| CB | 35 | Kasey Ross (5-11, 160, Jr.) |
| FS | 5 | Jamar Flournoy (6-0, 205, Sr.) |
| SS | 8 | Pierre Parker (6-0, 202, So.) |

SPECIALISTS

| | | |
|----|----|---------------------------------|
| PK | 15 | Michael Sunday (5-10, 188, Jr.) |
| P | 10 | Ryan Dougherty (6-1, 212, Jr.) |

Holtz won't know what the Pirates can hang their hat on offensively until the quarterback picture clears up. Returning starter James Pinkney was exiled during the spring and his status is in doubt.

CENTRAL FLORIDA

GOLDEN KNIGHTS



2004 Record: 0-11 overall, 0-8 MAC
Official athletic Web site: www.ucfathletics.com

Win only two games, as East Carolina did last season, and cross-the-board improvement is key needed.

Statistics bear that out. In 2004, the Pirates ranked 105th or lower nationally in all of the following categories: rushing offense, total offense, rushing defense, pass efficiency defense, total defense and scoring defense.

That means new coach Skip Holtz has lots of rebuilding to do, including some between-the-ears work. He says East Carolina has tasted defeat in 23 of its last 26 games, so confidence must be developed.

Holtz took the ECU job after spending six seasons working for his father, Lou Holtz, at South Carolina. He succeeded John Thompson, who steered the Pirates to consecutive 0th-place Conference USA finishes.

Holtz believes he can turn the program around because ECU has won in the past (six bowl games since 1990, four top three C-USA finishes in the last eight years) and because he has a supportive administration. Holtz says it is hard for him to evaluate what went wrong prior to his arrival, but points to an "awful lot of change" in terms of coaches and administrators.

"There hasn't been a lot of stability the last five or six years," he says.

Holtz seems to be a nice fit in Greenville because, thanks to his previous job, he has recruiting experience in the Carolinas. And he inherited a group of players that includes 19 returning starters.

Two offensive players that caught his eye are tailbacks Chris Johnson and Robert Tillman. Holtz says he wants to get the ball in their hands because of their speed and big-play potential. Johnson and Tillman will be asked to upgrade a ground game that was limited to 59 or fewer yards five times last season. Johnson led the Pirates in rushing yards (561), kickoff-return yards (765) and all-purpose yards (1,562) in 2004. He was 24th nationally in all-purpose yards and set eight single-game or single-season freshman records.

Holtz won't know what the Pirates can hang their hat on offensively until the quarterback picture clears up. Returning starter James Pinkney was exiled during the spring and his status is in doubt.

The news wasn't all bad for the University of Central Florida during an 0-11 campaign one year ago. Players combined for a grade-point average of 2.779, best since the school moved to Division I-A in 1996.

Sticking with that theme, perhaps it's best just to chalk up 2004 as a learning experience. The most important lesson was it's hard to be consistent when you start 43 different players on offense and defense during the course of a season.

Tackle Keith Shologan, a true freshman last season, was the only defensive player who started every game at the same position. Injuries hit the defensive backfield and linebacker corps so hard that 10 different players started in the secondary and seven different players started at linebacker.

Receivers Mike Walker and Brandon Marshall were moved to the defensive backfield to help stop the bleeding and Walker, arguably the team's best athlete, managed to pull off the unique feat of leading the Golden Knights in both interceptions and yards per catch. Marshall led the team in tackles.

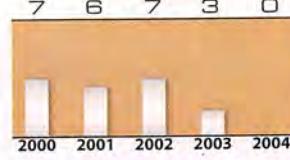
Coach George O'Leary felt good enough about available manpower in the secondary that the plan was to move Walker and Marshall back to offense in the spring. And the second-year coach addressed linebacker depth by signing five in his latest recruiting class. One of them, 6-foot-4, 260-pound freshman Clarence Howard, arrived on campus in the spring.

O'Leary is not opposed to playing puppies. His starting offensive line last season included three true freshmen and two sophomores.

The Golden Knights will be young again in 2005. Only four seniors were listed as offensive or defensive starters on a pre-spring depth chart. But O'Leary believes he is laying a foundation for future success.

No stranger to success, O'Leary forged six winning seasons in his last seven years as coach at Georgia Tech. He came to UCF after spending two seasons as a Minnesota Vikings assistant and is still waiting for his first victory with the Golden Knights.

UCF was beaten by 17 or more points seven times last season. The Golden Knights were limited to 230 or fewer total yards in five games.

FIVE-YEAR WINS TREND**2005 SCHEDULE**

| DATE | OPPONENT | '04 RESULT |
|-------|----------------------|------------|
| S. 1 | @SOUTH CAROLINA | |
| S. 17 | @SOUTH FLORIDA | |
| S. 24 | Marshall | 3-20 |
| O. 1 | @LOUISIANA-LAFAYETTE | |
| O. 8 | Memphis | |
| O. 15 | @SOUTHERN MISS | |
| O. 22 | Tulane | |
| O. 29 | @EAST CAROLINA | |
| N. 5 | Houston | |
| N. 12 | @UAB | |
| N. 19 | @RICE | |

Head coach: George O'Leary,
2nd Year (0-11)

Career Record: 52-44

Stadium: Florida Citrus Bowl

Turf: Grass

Capacity: 65,438

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 15
 Lettermen returning/lost: 39/15

OFFENSE

| | | |
|----|----|--------------------------------------|
| QB | 9 | Steven Moffett (6-3, 210, Jr.) |
| FB | 32 | Goodson Ohaebulam (6-0, 250, Jr.) |
| TB | 20 | Dontavius Wilcox (5-9, 220, Jr.) |
| LT | 69 | Dominic Ignelzi (6-4, 300, So.) |
| LG | 67 | Dan Veenstra (6-5, 300, Jr.) |
| C | 53 | Cedric Gagne-Marcoux (6-3, 280, Jr.) |
| RG | 79 | Kyle Smith (6-3, 280, So.) |
| RT | 70 | Josh Sitton (6-5, 310, So.) |
| TE | 84 | Darcy Johnson (6-5, 255, Sr.) |
| WR | 11 | Mike Walker (6-2, 195, Jr.) |
| WR | 81 | Brandon Marshall (6-4, 230, Sr.) |

DEFENSE

| | | |
|-----|----|-----------------------------------|
| LE | 49 | Glenroy Watkins (6-2, 240, Sr.) |
| LT | 74 | Keith Shologan (6-2, 280, So.) |
| RT | 71 | Emeka Okammar (6-1, 270, So.) |
| RE | 92 | Dennis King (6-2, 260, So.) |
| SLB | 96 | Chris Welsh (6-4, 235, Jr.) |
| MLB | 57 | Clarence Howard (6-4, 260, r-Fr.) |
| WLB | 48 | James Cook (6-3, 220, Sr.) |
| LCB | 32 | Travis Holmes (5-9, 170, Jr.) |
| RCB | 26 | Ron Ellis (5-11, 190, Jr.) |
| FS | 39 | Sha'reff Rashad (6-1, 200, r-Fr.) |
| SS | 28 | Renford Parkes (5-11, 210, So.) |

SPECIALISTS

| | | |
|----|----|------------------------------|
| PK | 2 | Matt Prater (5-10, 180, Sr.) |
| P | 17 | Aaron Horne (6-3, 195, Sr.) |



JORDAN PALMER, QB



UTEP MINERS

EL PASO, TEXAS

2004 Record: 8-4 overall, 6-2 WAC (lost to Colorado in the Houston Bowl, 33-28)

Stadium: Sun Bowl Stadium

Official athletic Web site: www.utepathletics.com

Turf: Artificial

Capacity: 51,500

PRESEASON RANK:

FIVE-YEAR WINS TREND

18 2 2 2 8
2000 2001 2002 2003 2004

Head coach: Mike Price, 2nd Year (8-4) Career Record: 137-125

Assistant coaches: Jeff Banks (RBs/punters/recruiting coord.), Jim Clark (Cbs), Tim Duffie (LBs), Tim Hundley (def. coord.), Lawrence Livingston (ass't. head coach/off. line), Ikaika Malloie (def. line), Aaron Price (QBs/kickers), Eric Price (off. coord.), Jeff Woodruff (safeties/special teams)



2005 SCHEDULE

| DATE | OPPONENT | '04 RESULT |
|-------|---------------------|------------|
| S. 3 | @NEW MEXICO STATE | 45-0 |
| S. 16 | Houston | |
| S. 24 | New Mexico | |
| O. 1 | @MEMPHIS | |
| O. 14 | @TULANE | |
| O. 22 | Marshall | |
| O. 29 | @RICE | 35-28 (OT) |
| N. 5 | Tulsa | 35-37 |
| N. 12 | Texas Southern | |
| N. 19 | UAB | |
| N. 26 | @SOUTHERN METHODIST | 57-27 |

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 11
Lettermen returning/lost: 44/21

OFFENSE

| | | |
|----|----|---|
| QB | 5 | Jordan Palmer (6-5, 230, Jr.) |
| TB | 2 | Tyler Ebell (5-9, 185, Sr.) |
| LT | 74 | Josh House (6-4, 295, Sr.) |
| LG | 79 | Jose Garcia (6-2, 315, Sr.) |
| C | 61 | Andy Smith (6-4, 305, Jr.) |
| RG | 73 | James Riley (6-2, 300, Sr.) |
| RT | 57 | Tyler Ribitzki (6-5, 290, Fr.) |
| TE | 37 | Jake Sears (6-3, 240, So.) |
| WR | 80 | Chris Francies (6-1, 200, Sr.) |
| WR | 21 | Johnnie Lee Higgins Jr. (6-0, 180, Jr.) |
| WR | 1 | Jayson Boyd (6-4, 210, Sr.) |

DEFENSE

| | | |
|-----|----|------------------------------|
| LE | 47 | Alex Obomese (6-3, 230, Jr.) |
| LT | 70 | Chris Mineo (6-2, 285, Sr.) |
| RT | 63 | Zach West (6-4, 300, Jr.) |
| RE | 94 | Joe Ward (6-4, 245, Jr.) |
| WLB | 6 | Jeremy Jones (6-1, 220, Jr.) |

| | | |
|-----|----|--------------------------------|
| MLB | 44 | Troy Collavo (6-0, 230, Jr.) |
| SLB | 11 | Thomas Howard (6-3, 240, Sr.) |
| LCB | 24 | James Delgado (5-11, 180, Sr.) |
| RCB | 1 | Nate Draughon (5-10, 180, Jr.) |
| FS | 9 | Quintin Demps (6-0, 205, So.) |

| | | |
|-------------|----|----------------------------------|
| SS | 25 | Joe Fleskoski (6-1, 200, Jr.) |
| SPECIALISTS | | |
| PK | 49 | Reagan Schneider (6-0, 180, Jr.) |
| P | 7 | Ryan Hotchkiss (6-1, 210, Jr.) |

Price has talent in El Paso to dig up a C-USA title for Miners

The last school to join the reconfigured Conference USA was Texas-El Paso and the Miners seem equipped to finish first in the league's Western Division.

UTEP was invited to join C-USA after TCU announced plans to leave the league for the Mountain West Conference. Instead of looking within established borders for TCU's replacement and adding a school like Louisiana Tech (which lobbied for a C-USA invite), the conference instead opted to stretch its border westward to El Paso.

The addition of UTEP means C-USA's membership roster will span three time zones. But the timing for picking up the Miners couldn't have been better.

UTEP's football program cracked the national top 25 in both major polls for the first time in school history during the 2004 season and the basketball program is coming off back-to-back NCAA Tournament appearances. Even Hollywood has taken notice, making a movie about former coach Don "The Bear" Haskins and the Miners' 1966 national championship hoops team.

If Haskins is the most beloved figure in school history, then football coach Mike Price is quickly ascending to the No. 2 spot. In his first season, Price took a program coming off three consecutive two-win seasons and guided the Miners to eight victories (including a school-record-tying seven in a row) and a Houston Bowl appearance.

Price was a finalist for national coach of the year honors and he was chosen as college football's top first-year coach by the Football Writers' Association of America.

Now the big question is this: Can Price avoid a "sophomore" slump?

"Like I have always said, I turned Washington State's program around about three or four times, for the good and the bad," he says. "I just think we've got to make sure we remember what got us to where we were last year. We've got to go back to fundamentals and go back to basics and just don't forget our discipline and our structure that we have in place here."

Price says he will stay on top of his kids and do it with a smile on his face. There were lots of smiles to go around at the school's home stadium, the

Sun Bowl, last season. UTEP led the WAC in average home attendance (41,209) and fans who had endured decades of losing were finally rewarded.

From 2001-03, UTEP football was a comedy of errors. The Miners committed 108 turnovers and managed three victories over Division I-A opponents. In Price's first season, the Miners produced a positive turnover margin.

If the Miners take care of the football again, don't be surprised if they wind up in C-USA's championship game. They are the only team in the league's new Western hemisphere to produce a winning record last season.

Junior quarterback Jordan Palmer, younger brother of former Heisman Trophy winner Carson Palmer, will try to lead UTEP to back-to-back winning seasons for the first time since 1987-88. Last season, Palmer threw for 2,818 yards, third most in school history. He ranked 28th nationally in passing efficiency and 37th among Division I-A players in total offense.

Price coached high-profile quarterbacks Drew Bledsoe, Jason Gesser and Ryan Leaf at Washington State. He says Palmer "has probably improved as much as any quarterback I've ever had in one year."

Palmer will throw to a group of receivers that Price says could be as good as any in the country. Seven returning receivers combined for 160 catches, 2,358 yards and 22 touchdowns last season. Jayson Boyd and Johnnie Lee Higgins Jr. both went over 100 yards in a bowl loss to Colorado. Boyd, Higgins and Chris Francies could challenge for postseason honors.

UTEP must replace running back Howard Jackson, who rushed for 3,466 career yards and set a school record for career all-purpose yards. But successor Tyler Ebell, a UCLA transfer, could have a breakout season. A former Parade All-American, Ebell ran for nearly 1,500 yards in two seasons with the Bruins.

"He's a slasher-type runner," Price says. "He breaks arm tackles. He's strong. He will run over you if he has to. But the best thing he does is cut. He can stop and cut and go on a dime."

Key returnees on defense are linebacker Thomas Howard (second among WAC players in sacks last season), lineman Chris Mineo (fourth among WAC players in sacks), lineman Zach West (second-team All-WAC) and safety Quintin Demps (FWAA Freshman All-American last season).

HOUSTON COUGARS



HOUSTON
COUGARS

Houston

2004 Record: 3-8 overall, 3-5 C-USA

Stadium: Robertson Stadium

Official athletic Web site: www.uhcougars.com

Turf: Grass

Capacity: 32,000



FIVE-YEAR WINS TREND

| | | | | |
|------|------|------|------|------|
| 3 | 0 | 5 | 7 | 3 |
| 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 |

PRESEASON RANK:

2

Head coach: Art Briles, 3rd Year (10-14) Career Record: 10-14

Assistant coaches: Ron Harris (def. coord./def. line), Alan Weddell (ILBs/special teams coord.), Rodney Blackshear (WRs), Randy Clements (off. line), Clay Jennings (safeties), Philip Montgomery (RBs), Jason Phillips (CBs), Erik Slaughter (OLBs), Mike Spradlin (off. line)



KEVIN KOLB, QB

The Art of the Turnaround: Cougars could be most improved

The buzz around new-look Conference USA is that Houston could be the league's most improved team.

"I hope they are right," coach Art Briles says.

The Cougars return eight offensive starters, are loaded at the skill positions and will switch from a 4-3 defensive alignment to a 3-4 to in hopes of fortifying a unit that was plundered during a 3-8 season one year ago.

"First of all, we are not pleased with the way it turned out last year, but we are not beating ourselves up either," Briles says. "We have become stronger mentally and we are going to become more accountable to each other on a daily basis. We grew from that. We just never had a chance to gain any confidence or momentum last year. We are excited about having a chance to make tremendous improvement in 2005."

It is possible that Houston will be explosive enough to outscore most opponents, if necessary. The school's spring prospectus suggested that C-USA defensive coordinators might want to "take stock in Tylenol next fall."

Senior Kevin Kolb led C-USA in total offense last season and has started 24 consecutive games, the ninth-longest current streak by a Division I-A quarterback. Briles says Kolb is mentally tough and excels at getting the ball where it needs to go.

"He has all the tools," the coach says.

And, seemingly, Kolb has all the weapons a quarterback could want, too.

Players who combined for 83.3 percent of Houston's catches return. Among them are 1,000-yard receiver Vincent Marshall, who was second-team all-league last year, and Donnie Avery, who was named to C-USA's All-Freshman Team in 2004. Marshall, who participates in the long jump and triple jump for the school's track team, has caught at least one pass in 24 straight games.

"Vincent is just an explosive player," Briles says. "He's a guy that can turn a small play into a big one. He's going to have a lot of opportunities to make a lot of plays. He's a guy that has got to be geared up physically and mentally every day because he's going to have a chance to have some big games."

The Cougars can go four deep at running back and the guy at the top of the heap is senior Anthony Evans, who missed the bulk of four games and still

produced a team-leading 788 yards last season. He averaged 98.5 rushing yards per game and is the 10th-leading rusher in school history.

Jackie Battle, a 6-2, 250-pound bulldozer who rarely gets thrown for a loss, missed most of last season with a torn tendon in his finger and will provide depth along with senior Ryan Gilbert and sophomore Harold Taylor.

A spring priority was fixing an offensive line that surrendered a whopping 44 sacks last season. The Cougars had to replace three offensive linemen last season, including two who played in the NFL, and offensive production dropped from 458.3 yards and 34.5 points in 2003 to 389.7 yards and 20.9 points in 2004.

Perhaps the growing pains are over. Four starters return, including Roy Swan, Sterling Doty, SirVincent Rogers and Byron Alfred, who'll miss some of the season recovering from a knee injury.

Briles felt better about the unit after spring drills and indicated the Cougars have quality depth. "It's the first time we've had that situation," he says.

Houston ranked 90th or worse nationally last season in rushing yards allowed, points allowed and pass efficiency defense. Instead of standing pat, Briles green-lighted a change to a 3-4.

Lance Everson, who shared the team lead with 115 tackles last season, would have filled one of the linebacker spots, but was injured in spring drills and could miss the season, according to Briles.

"We've got to find people to pick up the slack and grow up in a hurry," the coach says. "That's kind of where we are right now is making sure everybody is on a pace to excel immediately instead of waiting to get good."

Wade Koehl, the player who tied Everson for the team lead in tackles, is one of seven returning starters. Kade Lane, who has started all 36 games in his career and was third-team all-league in 2004, is moving from the defensive interior to defensive end. Briles says he is expecting a lot of out Lane and 320-pound nose tackle Marquay Love, who is sharing a position with incumbent starter D.J. Johnson.

The UH defense fared better against the pass than the run last season. The Cougars ranked 50th nationally in passing yards allowed. Strong safety Rocky Schwartz, a former high school quarterback, was the team's third-leading tackler and was named to C-USA's All-Freshman Team. Cornerback Willie Gaston and safety Will Gulley also return in the secondary. Gulley injured a knee in the ninth game of last season.

2005 SCHEDULE

| DATE | OPPONENT | '04 RESULT |
|-------|--------------------|------------|
| S. 1 | Oregon | |
| S. 10 | Sam Houston State | |
| S. 16 | @UTEP | |
| S. 24 | Southern Miss | 29-35 (OT) |
| O. 1 | @TULSA | |
| O. 8 | @TULANE | 24-3 |
| O. 15 | Memphis | 14-41 |
| O. 22 | @MISSISSIPPI STATE | |
| N. 5 | @UCF | |
| N. 12 | Southern Methodist | |
| N. 26 | Rice | 7-10 |

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 16
Lettermen returning/lost: 43/20

OFFENSE

| | | |
|----|----|-----------------------------------|
| QB | 4 | Kevin Kolb (6-3, 220, Sr.) |
| RB | 6 | Anthony Evans (5-10, 215, r-Sr.) |
| LT | 74 | SirVincent Rogers (6-3, 295, So.) |
| LG | 71 | Roy Swan (6-2, 325, r-Sr.) |
| C | 67 | Sterling Doty (6-2, 297, r-Jr.) |
| RG | 70 | David Douglas (6-3, 335, r-Sr.) |
| RT | 76 | Jason Wagner (6-6, 300, r-So.) |
| TE | 12 | Blade Bassler (6-4, 235, r-Sr.) |
| WR | 14 | Ricky Wilson (5-10, 180, Jr.) |
| WR | 2 | Donnie Avery (6-10, 190, r-So.) |
| SL | 17 | Vincent Marshall (5-9, 175, Sr.) |

DEFENSE

| | | |
|-----|----|-----------------------------------|
| LE | 62 | Kade Lane (6-2, 270, Sr.) |
| NT | 99 | Marquay Love (6-0, 320, Jr.) |
| RE | 79 | Gerard Richard (6-3, 300, Sr.) |
| BLB | 1 | Wade Koehl (6-2, 225, Jr.) |
| WLB | 34 | Cody Lubojasky (6-3, 205, So.) |
| MLB | 41 | Trent Allen (6-2, 235, r-So.) |
| SLB | 3 | Brendan Pahulu (6-3, 215, So.) |
| CB | 10 | Willie Gaston (5-11, 185, Sr.) |
| CB | 4 | Roshawn Pope (5-11, 190, Sr.) |
| FS | 18 | Will Gulley (6-4, 210, Sr.) |
| SS | 20 | Rocky Schwartz (5-11, 180, r-So.) |

SPECIALISTS

| | | |
|----|---|--------------------------------|
| PK | 2 | Justin Laird (6-2, 210, r-Jr.) |
| P | 2 | Justin Laird (6-2, 210, r-Jr.) |

TULSA

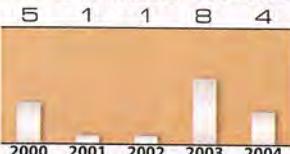
GOLDEN HURRICANE



2004 Record: 4-8 overall, 3-5 WAC

Official athletic Web site: www.tulsahurricane.com

FIVE-YEAR WINS TREND



2005 SCHEDULE

| DATE | OPPONENT | '04 RESULT |
|-------|--------------------|------------|
| S. 1 | Minnesota | |
| S. 10 | @OKLAHOMA | |
| S. 17 | @NORTH TEXAS | |
| S. 24 | Memphis | |
| O. 1 | Houston | |
| O. 8 | @SOUTHERN MISS | |
| O. 15 | @RICE | 39-22 |
| O. 22 | Southern Methodist | 35-41 (OT) |
| N. 5 | @UTEP | 37-35 |
| N. 12 | East Carolina | |
| N. 19 | @TULANE | |

Head coach: Steve Kragthorpe,
3rd Year (12-13)

Career Record: 12-13

Stadium: Skelly Stadium

Turf: Artificial

Capacity: 40,385

PROJECTED STARTERS

| |
|---|
| Starters returning: 13 |
| Lettermen returning/lost: 43/18 |
| OFFENSE |
| QB 12 Paul Smith (6-2, 192, r-So.) |
| RB 23 Uriel Parrish (5-9, 209, Sr.) |
| LT 69 Mike Mengers (6-4, 274, Jr.) |
| LG 67 John Hameister-Ries (6-6, 288, Jr.) |
| C 56 Aaron Danenhauer (6-5, 299, Jr.) |
| RG 61 Jesse Stoneham (6-4, 315, Sr.) |
| RT 78 Jeff Parrett (6-7, 319, Jr.) |
| TE 20 Garrett Mills (6-2, 232, Sr.) |
| TE 88 Charles Ramsey (6-4, 259, So.) |
| WR 21 Landon Keopple (6-0, 188, Sr.) |
| WR 3 Ashlan Davis (5-8, 179, Sr.) |
| DEFENSE |
| DE 97 Brandon Lohr (6-0, 250, Sr.) |
| NG 90 Brandon Jones (6-2, 290, So.) |
| DE 35 Cody Madison (6-3, 243, So.) |
| OLB 32 Chris Chamberlain (6-2, 214, So.) |
| MLB 41 Nick Bunting (6-1, 225, Jr.) |
| OLB 55 Nelson Coleman (6-2, 227, So.) |
| BAN 4 Bobby Blackshire (6-3, 200, Jr.) |
| LCB 24 Jeff Thibodeaux (6-0, 175, Sr.) |
| RCB 22 Nick Graham (5-10, 185, Jr.) |
| FS 19 Shannon Carter (6-0, 201, Jr.) |
| SPUR 42 Burnell Smith (6-1, 201, Sr.) |
| SPECIALISTS |
| PK 29 Brad DeVault (6-0, 195, Sr.) |
| P 5 Chris Kindred (5-11, 190, Jr.) |

Tulsa went 8-4 during the regular season in 2003 and 4-8 during the regular season in 2004.

This is probably too simple of an explanation to do justice to the reversal, but the Golden Hurricane capitalized on a lot of breaks in '03, when Steve Kragthorpe was a rookie head coach, and didn't get as many breaks in '04.

Tulsa lost only five fumbles, fewest in school history, during the 2003 regular season and came from behind to win six times. The good fortune allowed the Hurricane to clinch its first winning season since 1991.

Last season, Tulsa ranked 105th nationally in turnover margin and committed a WAC-high seven red-zone turnovers. The Hurricane was beaten twice in overtime and lost 45-42 to Boise State because the WAC champions scored 10 points in the last 1:24.

Perhaps college football's hard-luck play of the season came in a loss to Nevada. Brandon Diles ran for 202 yards, but lost a fumble near the goal line while running for an apparent game-tying score in triple overtime.

"We were three or four plays away from being 8-4 again," Kragthorpe says. "But that's just the way the ball bounces sometimes."

Tulsa must replace gritty leader James Killian, the only Golden Hurricane quarterback to start a bowl game in the last 13 years.

Sophomore Paul Smith and redshirt freshman David Johnson battled for Killian's old job during spring drills. Smith finished his high school career as the all-time passing yardage leader in Oklahoma. Killian held that distinction until Smith came along.

Smith is the only quarterback on campus who has taken a Division I-A snap. He completed 61.8 percent of his passes as a true-freshman backup two seasons ago.

The new quarterback will have a couple of nice weapons at his disposal. Tight end Garrett Mills is a two-time first-team All-WAC player who led Tulsa in receptions each of the last two years. Uriel Parrish ran for 1,064 yards last season, becoming the 11th player in school history and first since 1997 to rush for at least 1,000 yards.

TULANE

GREEN WAVE



2004 Record: 5-6 overall, 3-5 C-USA

Official athletic Web site: www.tulanegreenwave.com

FIVE-YEAR WINS TREND



2005 SCHEDULE

| DATE | OPPONENT | '04 RESULT |
|-------|------------------------|------------|
| S. 4 | @SOUTHERN MISS | 14-32 |
| S. 17 | Mississippi State | 7-28 |
| S. 24 | @SOUTHERN METHODIST | |
| O. 1 | Southeastern Louisiana | |
| O. 8 | Houston | 3-24 |
| O. 14 | UTEP | |
| O. 22 | @UCF | |
| O. 29 | Marshall | |
| N. 5 | @NAVY | 42-10 |
| N. 12 | @RICE | |
| N. 19 | Tulsa | |

Head coach: Chris Scelfo,

7th Year (31-40)

Career Record: 31-40

Stadium: Louisiana Superdome

Turf: Artificial

Capacity: 69,767

PROJECTED STARTERS

| |
|---|
| Starters returning: 18 |
| Lettermen returning/lost: 44/17 |
| OFFENSE |
| QB 8 Lester Ricard (6-5, 222, r-Jr.) |
| FB 22 Ray Boudreaux (5-10, 200, r-So.) |
| RB 25 Matt Forte (6-1, 224, So.) |
| LT 68 Chris McGee (6-4, 296, Sr.) |
| LG 72 Matt Traina (6-3, 285, r-Sr.) |
| C 55 Joe Traina (6-3, 285, r-Sr.) |
| RG 66 Donald Madlock (6-4, 295, Sr.) |
| RT 64 Derek Rogers (6-5, 309, r-Jr.) |
| TE 88 Bobby Hoover (6-4, 262, r-Sr.) |
| WR 17 Bubba Terranova (6-3, 205, Sr.) |
| WR 84 Kenneth Guidroz (6-3, 209, r-So.) |
| DEFENSE |
| DE 57 Antonio Harris (6-2, 271, So.) |
| DT 93 Taurean Brown (6-6, 280, r-Jr.) |
| DT 56 Avery Williams (6-0, 282, So.) |
| DE 42 Billy Harrison (6-4, 243, Jr.) |
| WLB 5 Brandon Spencer (6-2, 213, r-Sr.) |
| MLB 11 Anthony Cannon (6-0, 233, Sr.) |
| SLB 39 Antonio Mason (6-0, 222, r-Sr.) |
| CB 21 Jeremy Foreman (6-2, 172, r-Sr.) |
| CB 31 Sean Lucas (5-11, 202, Sr.) |
| FS 2 Tra Boger (6-1, 223, r-Sr.) |
| SS 30 Darren Sapp (6-0, 211, r-Sr.) |
| SPECIALISTS |
| PK 47 Nick Beucher (6-0, 190, r-So.) |
| P 45 Chris Beckman (6-2, 202, r-Jr.) |

Can a hot finish in 2004 lead to a successful 2005? Tulane coach Chris Scelfo hopes so.

Tulane began last season 1-4, but got off the canvas and put up a fight. The Green Wave won four of its final six games and ambushed Navy and UAB, two bowl-bound teams. A season-ending loss to Conference USA champion Louisville prevented Scelfo's squad from becoming bowl-eligible.

"We grew up a lot last year. We stuck together through adversity and really came through some things," Scelfo says.

Lester Ricard, who threw 10 touchdown passes in the upsets of Navy and UAB, is back for his junior season and is one of 18 returning starters. Ricard ranked ninth nationally in passing efficiency last season and missed the final two games with a broken wrist.

Ricard will work behind a veteran offensive line featuring returning starters Joe Traina, Matt Traina, Chris McGee and Donald Madlock. That's the good news. The bad news is Ricard will have to break in a new crop of receivers. Three receivers (including Roydell Williams, who ranked 25th nationally in receiving yards last year) were lost and that's big, considering the Green Wave like to use multi-receiver formations.

Running backs Jovon Jackson and Matt Forte shared the team lead with 624 rushing yards each last season. Four experienced runners are back to boost a ground game that ranked 86th nationally and next to last in C-USA last season.

Scelfo believes his team's talent level and depth has been upgraded, but statistics indicate the defense is still suffering from growing pains. The Green Wave ranked 93rd in total defense, 96th in rushing defense and 99th in scoring defense last season, holding opponents below 24 points just twice.

Teams which give up lots of yards sometimes can minimize the damage by creating turnovers, but Tulane managed only 13 takeaways, second fewest in C-USA last season.

Perhaps a bit of experimentation in the linebacking corps will lead to a defensive upgrade. Anthony Cannon, who produced at least 100 tackles in each of the previous three seasons, moved from outside linebacker to middle linebacker during spring drills.

RICE

DWLS

2004 Record: 3-8 overall, 2-6 WAC
Official athletic Web site: www.riceowls.com

Because of a grind-it-out option offense, few teams in college football are as dependent on field position as Rice. The Owls don't hit a lot of home runs. They nickel-and-dime their way down the field and the odds of scoring are a lot better when the offense has the luxury of traveling short distances.

Rice ranked last among Division I-A teams in net punting last year and the field position disadvantage sabotaged the Owls. Despite leading the Western Athletic Conference in time of possession and becoming the first WAC school ever to lead the nation in rushing, Rice ranked next to last among league teams in scoring offense. The Owls went 3-8 and closed the season with six straight defeats, the fourth-longest skid in the nation.

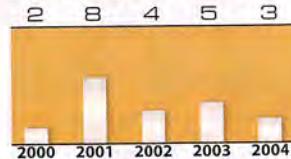
Coach Ken Hatfield didn't become the nation's fifth-winningest active coach by permitting subpar special teams play. And it's not just the punting unit that could use a tuneup. The Owls made a league-low 50 percent of field goal attempts last season.

Of course, reaching the end zone more often would be preferable to kicking field goals, and Hatfield entered spring drills with the intent of incorporating more passing into the offense. Rice ranked last nationally in passing yards last season. Backfield experience could give the Owls the luxury of running more plays from a shotgun formation.

Hatfield, who dabbled with similar offensive tweaks three years ago, indicated he was led to revisit the idea because of the offensive success Utah had last season. "Several things they did looked like they would fit us," Hatfield says.

In Hatfield's best seasons at Rice, the common denominator has been consistent quarterback play. Sophomore quarterback Joel Armstrong started five of the final six games last season, and he was the team's second-leading and the WAC's 10th-leading rusher.

Fullback Ed Bailey, the fifth-leading rusher in Rice history, will be missed. But plenty of other experienced players are back to make the spread-option offense hum, including halfbacks Quinton Smith, Mike Falco and Thomas Lott Jr., son of the former Oklahoma wishbone quarterback.

**FIVE-YEAR WINS TREND****2005 SCHEDULE**

| DATE | OPPONENT | '04 RESULT |
|-------|---------------------|------------|
| S. 10 | @UCLA | |
| S. 17 | @TEXAS | 13-35 |
| S. 24 | Navy | 13-14 |
| O. 1 | @UAB | |
| O. 8 | @EAST CAROLINA | |
| O. 15 | Tulsa | 22-39 |
| O. 29 | UTEP | 28-35 (OT) |
| N. 5 | @SOUTHERN METHODIST | 44-10 |
| N. 12 | Tulane | |
| N. 19 | UCF | |
| N. 26 | @HOUSTON | 10-7 |

Head coach: Ken Hatfield,
12th Year (54-68-1)

Career Record: 167-130-4

Stadium: Rice Stadium

Turf: Artificial

Capacity: 70,000

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 15
 Lettermen returning/lost: 37/22

OFFENSE

| | |
|-----------|------------------------------------|
| QB | 13 Joel Armstrong (5-11, 180, So.) |
| FB | 25 Andrew Cates (5-11, 220, Jr.) |
| AB | 44 Quinton Smith (5-11, 200, Jr.) |
| HB | 22 Mike Falco (5-11, 220, Jr.) |
| LT | 65 David Carter (6-6, 300, Jr.) |
| LG | 71 Cory Laxen (6-3, 290, Jr.) |
| C | 52 David Perkins (6-3, 275, So.) |
| RG | 63 David Berken (6-3, 280, Fr.) |
| RT | 50 Rolf Krueger (6-4, 290, Jr.) |
| TE | 87 Matt Bolding (6-3, 245, Jr.) |
| SE | 81 Jared Dillard (6-0, 175, Fr.) |

DEFENSE

| | |
|--------------------|----------------------------------|
| DE | 47 John Syptak (6-2, 255, Sr.) |
| NG | 97 William Wood (6-3, 300, Jr.) |
| DT | 92 DeJana Cooper (6-2, 305, Jr.) |
| DE | 94 Rob Daniel (6-4, 245, Sr.) |
| WLB | 48 Adam Herrin (6-0, 225, Sr.) |
| BAN | 21 Chad Price (6-0, 205, Jr.) |
| SLB | 49 Buck Casson (6-1, 215, So.) |
| CB | 23 Jon Turner (5-9, 185, So.) |
| CB | 8 Lance Byrd (5-11, 185, Jr.) |
| FS | 2 Andray Downs (5-9, 185, Jr.) |
| ROV | 3 Matt Ginn (5-9, 180, Jr.) |
| SPECIALISTS | |
| PK | 41 Luke Juist (6-0, 200, So.) |
| P | 85 Jared Scruggs (6-2, 190, Jr.) |

SMU**MUSTANGS**

2004 Record: 3-8 overall, 3-5 WAC

Official athletic Web site: www.smumustangs.com

When the 2006 season arrives, SMU will celebrate the 25th anniversary of an extraordinary accomplishment. Eric Dickerson and Craig James both ran for more than 1,000 yards in 1981. They gained national acclaim as the "Pony Express."

Nowadays, SMU coach Phil Bennett would settle for one horse to ride.

Bennett placed a priority on finding a feature back after last season, when a quarterback, Jerad Romo, was the team's leading rusher. Romo's 434 rushing yards were the fewest by an SMU rushing leader since Kevin Love ran for 423 in 1989.

Only once did an SMU player run for at least 100 yards in a game last season. Foy Munlin turned the trick at San Jose State's expense and Cedrick Dorsey flirted with a 100-yard game when he carried 10 times for 94 yards in an overtime victory over Tulsa.

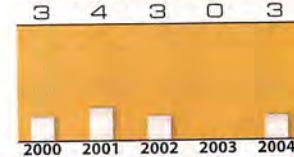
"Last season we saw some things we really liked in Cedrick Dorsey and he played most of the year with injuries," Bennett says. "I want to see how he holds up and how he's matured."

If maturity is contagious, perhaps SMU will be a pleasant surprise in its inaugural year of Conference USA membership. The Mustangs were billed as the nation's youngest team last season, when the 112-man roster was populated with 57 freshmen and 28 sophomores.

The youth movement contributed to a 1-7 start, and questions about Bennett's job security surfaced. But the Mustangs won two of their final three games and Bennett, who has a 6-29 career record, enters his fourth season with the belief that his team will be much improved.

SMU returns 11 offensive starters and nine defensive starters. Competition is such that incumbents will have to fight to keep their jobs. One of the most closely watched competitions will be a quarterback battle. Former starter Chris Phillips is back after sitting out a medical redshirt season. Tony Eckert threw for more than 1,400 yards in '04, most by an SMU quarterback in four years, and Romo provided a changeup.

Bennett, who has juggled quarterbacks in the past, would like to see one of them take charge and rev up an offense which produced WAC-lows of 26 touchdowns and seven field goals last season.

FIVE-YEAR WINS TREND**2005 SCHEDULE**

| DATE | OPPONENT | '04 RESULT |
|-------|---------------|------------|
| S. 3 | Baylor | |
| S. 10 | TCU | 0-44 |
| S. 17 | @TEXAS A&M | |
| S. 24 | Tulane | |
| O. 1 | @MARSHALL | |
| O. 8 | @UAB | |
| O. 15 | East Carolina | |
| O. 22 | @TULSA | 41-35 (OT) |
| N. 5 | Rice | 10-44 |
| N. 12 | @HOUSTON | |
| N. 26 | UTEP | 27-57 |

Head coach: Phil Bennett,

4th Year (6-29)

Career Record: 6-29

Stadium: Gerald J. Ford Stadium

Turf: Grass

Capacity: 32,000

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 22
 Lettermen returning/lost: 45/11

OFFENSE

| | |
|-----------|------------------------------------|
| QB | 4 Tony Eckert (6-2, 215, Sr.) |
| HB | 23 Cedrick Dorsey (5-11, 195, So.) |
| TB | 1 Fred Turner (5-10, 170, So.) |
| LT | 71 Martin Guidry (6-4, 285, Jr.) |
| LG | 50 Caleb Peveto (6-4, 285, Sr.) |
| C | 66 Ben Poyer (6-4, 280, So.) |
| RG | 62 Brad Kieschnick (6-3, 290, Sr.) |
| RT | 58 Darrin Johnson (6-6, 292, Jr.) |
| TE | 89 Ryan Kennedy (6-5, 265, Jr.) |
| WR | 82 Bobby Chase (6-4, 210, Jr.) |
| WR | 28 Chris Foster (5-11, 183, Sr.) |

DEFENSE

| | |
|--------------------|-------------------------------------|
| DE | 11 Cory Muse (6-3, 230, So.) |
| NG | 56 Brandon Bonds (6-1, 305, Jr.) |
| DT | 94 Adrain Haywood (6-3, 275, Jr.) |
| DE | 40 Justin Rogers (6-4, 240, Jr.) |
| WLB | 5 Wilton McCray (6-0, 195, Fr.) |
| MLB | 35 D.D. Lee (6-1, 235, Sr.) |
| SLB | 27 Alvin Nnabue (6-1, 207, Sr.) |
| CB | 26 Rolando Humphrey (5-9, 175, Jr.) |
| CB | 21 Jonathan Lindley (6-0, 180, Fr.) |
| FS | 10 Randall Goode (5-11, 190, Jr.) |
| SS | 16 Jamey Harper (6-0, 190, Sr.) |
| SPECIALISTS | |
| PK | 31 Chris McMurtry (6-1, 235, Sr.) |
| P | 41 Ryan Mentzel (6-0, 200, Sr.) |

Games to watch:

» USC at Oregon, Sept. 24

Could be the Trojans' toughest test of the season.

» Cal at UCLA, Oct. 8

The Bears hung 45 points and 550 yards on their sister school last season.

» Arizona State at Washington State, Nov. 5

A good bet for 90 points and multiple overtimes.

Official conference website:
www.pac-10.org

PAC-10 CONFERENCE PREDICTED ORDER OF FINISH:



p.84



p.86



p.88



p.90



p.92



p.95



p.93



p.94



p.94



p.95



6



7



8



9



10

Street & Smith's ALL-CONFERENCE

Offense

| | |
|----|--|
| QB | Matt Leinart, Sr., USC |
| RB | Reggie Bush, Jr., USC |
| RB | Marshawn Lynch, So., Cal |
| DL | Sam Baker, So., USC |
| DL | Ryan O'Callaghan, Sr., Cal |
| DL | Marvin Phillip, Sr., Cal |
| DL | Brayling Love, Sr., Arizona State |
| DL | Mike McCloskey, Sr., UCLA |
| WR | Derek Hagan, Sr., Arizona State |
| WR | Mike Hass, Sr., Oregon State |
| TE | Zach Miller, So., Arizona State |
| PK | Justin Medlock, Jr., UCLA |

Defense

| | |
|----|--|
| DL | Haloti Ngata, Jr., Oregon |
| DL | Bebatunde Oshinowa, Sr., Stanford |
| DL | Lawrence Jackson, So., USC |
| DL | Devan Long, Sr., Oregon |
| LB | Jon Alston, Sr., Stanford |
| LB | Will Derting, Sr., Washington St. |
| LB | Spencer Hawes, Sr., UCLA |
| DB | Darrell Brooks, Sr., Arizona |
| DB | Darnell Bling, Jr., USC |
| DB | Jarrad Page, Sr., UCLA |
| DB | Sabby Piscitelli, Jr., Oregon St. |
| P | Tom Malone, Sr., USC |

Southern Cal Trojans reducing league in size by their sheer brilliance on the field

By Jon Wilner
San Jose Mercury-News

From 1968 to 1978, the conference was known as the Pac-8. Then the Arizona schools came on board and it became the Pac-10. What we have this year is an average of the two: the Pac-9.

There's USC at the top, and then there's a pack of nine teams playing from behind.

The Trojans might have been the national champions last season, but they almost yielded control of the conference to Cal in an October classic in which the Bears came within inches of the winning touchdown on the game's final play.

This season, there isn't anyone as good as Cal was last season, yet USC remains a powerhouse—perhaps even better offensively than it was in '04.

The result is a two-tier league, with the Trojans helmet-and-shoulder pads above everyone else. Cal would be the odds-on favorite to challenge the Trojans if junior quarterback Aaron Rodgers hadn't left for the NFL.

Oregon might be the best bet to finish second, but the Ducks don't have enough playmakers to hang with USC for three months.

Arizona State has a ton of returning talent, but the Sun Devils are breaking in a new quarterback and have off-field issues clouding the program.

UCLA has a solid combination of talent and experience, but the Bruins haven't proven they can win consistently in November under coach Karl Dorrell.

Washington State and Oregon State are somewhere between rebuilding and refining, good enough to finish fourth but no better.

Arizona, Washington and Stanford are hoping to become bowl-eligible.

In other words: there's no one to push the Trojans, no one to make them sweat until the final play, no one to make them grind until the regular-season finale. Don't be surprised if USC becomes the first team since Washington in 1991 to win the league by more than one game. Those Huskies went down as one of the greatest teams in Pac-8 or Pac-10 history.

So might these Trojans.



Reggie Bush, USC

Rating the recruits

1. USC

Signed more SuperPrep Top 100 players than anyone else (10), including the nation's top-rated quarterback and receiver.

2. Cal

Went heavy on jucos to bolster depleted defense. Also landed the West's best WR in DeSean Jackson.

3. Arizona

Second-year coach Mike Stoops brought in first-rate class, although there are no five-star players.

4. Oregon

Ducks landed the top RB in the West, Jonathan Stewart, and got help at receiver, too.

5. Arizona State

Another JC-heavy class, but prep QB Derek Shew makes this a top-30 haul nationally.

6. UCLA

Hammered by USC once again, but Bruins did get BYU transfer Ben Olson, the former prep wunderkind.

7. Stanford

Coaching change had a positive impact. Defensive tackle Ekom Udofia is the prized catch in Walt Harris' first class.

8. Washington State

Cougars got help on the defensive line but success depends on whether Arkelon Hall eventually becomes a top-flight QB.

9. Oregon State

Landed two cornerbacks—the Beavers' greatest need—who originally signed with Texas and Oklahoma.

10. Washington

Coaching change hurt the Huskies badly. It will take several years to recover.

Rating the players

Fastest receiver

Steve Smith, USC

Best hands

Mike Haas, WR, Oregon State

Best passing QB

Matt Leinart, USC

Best running QB

Isaiah Stanback, Washington

Most elusive RB

Reggie Bush, USC

Best instincts

Marshawn Lynch, RB, Cal

Best athlete

Reggie Bush, RB, USC

Best under pressure

Matt Leinart, QB, USC

Top NFL prospect

Reggie Bush, RB, USC

Top impact freshman

Rey Maualuga, LB, USC

Hardest hitter

Will Derting, LB, Washington State

Biggest underachiever

Michael Craven, LB, Stanford

Rating the coaches

Best strategist

Jeff Tedford, Cal

Best recruiter

Pete Carroll, USC

Coach on the spot

Dirk Koetter, Arizona State

Don't be surprised if ...

The league has only two teams ranked in the Top 25 at the end of the regular season (USC and Oregon) but sends seven to bowl games: USC, Oregon, UCLA, ASU, Cal, Washington State and Oregon State.

One man's opinion

"If you're a USC fan, or just a college football fan, we think it'll be fun to watch us play."

—USC coach Pete Carroll

Tailgate Time

Show your school spirit with all of these great tailgating accessories! These items make the perfect gift for the diehard college football fan; order yours today for delivery before kick-off!



Rolling Cooler: Make the party portable with this great cooler featuring smooth rolling in-line wheels and a zippered storage compartment. The heavy duty nylon exterior wraps a foam-insulated, heat-sealed interior that will hold 36 12 ounce cans plus ice. Available in select schools only. **\$49.95 + \$7 shipping**



Gym Bag: This heavy-duty 100% nylon bag measures 21"x 11"x 12" and can be attached to your rolling luggage handle. The large front pocket includes holders for pens, ID, and coins; and there is a separate bottom compartment for tennis shoes. The bag is offered in school colors with embroidered school logo on front of bag. Available in select schools only. **\$29.95 + \$7 shipping**



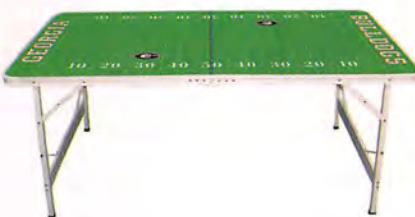
Picnic Cooler: This spacious cooler (18"l x 9"w x 11"h) provides heat or cold retention for all foods and beverages. Collapsible, lightweight nylon construction, with leak proof heat-sealed insulated liner. The cooler features the school logo embroidered on front, and it has an adjustable shoulder strap for carrying. **\$29.95 + \$7 shipping**



Sphere Chair: This chair is perfect for television or video-games, and it fits perfectly into game room or dorm room. The chair measures 30" in diameter and stands 29" tall and has a comfortable foam-filled 27" round seating area. The frame is powder-coated steel and it folds flat for storage or transport. The seat cover is polyester with the school logo screen-printed on the front. **\$49.95 + \$10 shipping**



Adult Chair: Adult size tailgate folding chair has comfortable 18"x 22" seat and padded back. School logos are printed on chair front and chair back, and there is a cup holder on armrest with storage pocket behind chair back. Fabric is 900 denier double layer nylon, frames are durable powder coated steel tubing-holds up to 300 pounds. Each chair comes with a water resistant storage case featuring the school logo. **\$32.95 + \$7 shipping**



Tailgate Table: Sturdy but lightweight construction, the table measures 6 ft. long and 3 ft. wide when open. Legs fold inside and table folds in half to a 3 foot square for storage. The table features a lock to hold closed and exterior carrying handle for ease of transport. The table top is screen-printed with official school logos similar to school's football field. Available in select schools only. **\$149.95 + \$20 shipping**



Trashcan Cooler: The collapsible, lightweight container is perfect as a trashcan, laundry hamper or beverage container. Features carrying handles and zipper lid to keep contents enclosed and unwanted pests out. The leak-proof, heat-sealed liner is designed to hold liquids and ice. The cooler stand 19" tall and is 16.5" in diameter. **\$21.95 + \$7 shipping**



Tailgate Tent: This large 9'x 9' official school color tent is made of water resistant 420 denier polyester and features school logos on all 4 sides. The tent features 6 feet height clearance but retracts to four feet for easy moving and storage. The heavy duty frame is constructed of powder coated steel and bolted joints. The tent includes ground stakes a nylon carrying case. Easy set up for two people on game day! Available in select schools only. **\$229.95 + \$20 shipping**

School availability: All Big 10, Big 12, ACC (except Boston College), SEC (except Vandy), Pac 10 (except Stanford and UCLA), most Big East, Conference USA, Notre Dame and many others. Call for availability.

Call Now To Order!
1-800-380-7404

Allow 3-4 weeks for delivery • AMEX, Discover, Visa and MasterCard accepted

Street & Smith's
Sports Gear



MATT LEINART, QB

SOUTHERN CAL

TROJANS

2004 Record: 13-0 overall, 8-0 Pac-10 (beat Oklahoma in the Orange Bowl, 55-19)

Stadium: Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum

Turf: Grass

Capacity: 92,000

Official athletic Web site: www.usctrojans.com

PRESEASON RANK:

1

FIVE-YEAR WINS TREND

5 6 11 12 13
2000 2001 2002 2003 2004

Head coach: Pete Carroll, 5th Year (42-9) Career Record: 42-9
Assistant coaches: Greg Burns (secondary), Brennan Carroll (TES), Jethro Franklin (def. line),
Lane Kiffin (off. coord./WRs/recruiting coord.), Todd McNair (RBS), Ken Norton Jr. (LBs),
Pat Ruel (off. line), Steve Sarkisian (asst. head coach/QBs), Rocky Seto (LBs)



2005 SCHEDULE

| DATE | OPPONENT | '04 RESULT |
|-------|------------------|------------|
| S. 3 | @HAWAII | |
| S. 17 | Arkansas | |
| S. 24 | @OREGON | |
| O. 1 | @ARIZONA STATE | 45-7 |
| O. 8 | Arizona | 49-9 |
| O. 15 | @NOTRE DAME | 41-10 |
| O. 22 | @WASHINGTON | 38-0 |
| O. 29 | Washington State | 42-12 |
| N. 5 | Stanford | 31-28 |
| N. 12 | @CALIFORNIA | 23-17 |
| N. 19 | Fresno State | |
| D. 3 | UCLA | 29-24 |

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 15
Lettermen returning/lost: 51/17

OFFENSE

| | |
|----|------------------------------------|
| QB | 11 Matt Leinart (6-5, 225, Sr.) |
| FB | 37 David Kirtman (6-0, 225, Sr.) |
| TB | 5 Reggie Bush (6-0, 200, Jr.) |
| LT | 79 Sam Baker (6-5, 290, So.) |
| LG | 53 Jeff Byers (6-3, 275, So.) |
| C | 67 Ryan Kalil (6-4, 275, Jr.) |
| RG | 51 Fred Matua (6-2, 305, Jr.) |
| RT | 74 Winston Justice (6-6, 300, Jr.) |
| TE | 86 Dominique Byrd (6-3, 260, Sr.) |
| SE | 8 Dwayne Jarrett (6-5, 195, So.) |
| FL | 2 Steve Smith (6-1, 195, Jr.) |

DEFENSE

| | |
|-----|-------------------------------------|
| DE | 96 Lawrence Jackson (6-5, 270, So.) |
| NT | 49 Sedrick Ellis (6-2, 275, So.) |
| DT | 98 LaJuan Ramsey (6-3, 285, Sr.) |
| DE | 90 Frostee Rucker (6-4, 255, Sr.) |
| WLB | 55 Keith Rivers (6-3, 220, So.) |
| MLB | 45 Oscar Lua (6-2, 240, Jr.) |
| SLB | 42 Dallas Sartz (6-5, 220, Sr.) |
| CB | 24 Justin Wyatt (5-10, 180, Sr.) |
| CB | 28 Terrell Thomas (6-2, 195, So.) |
| FS | 29 Scott Ware (6-3, 220, Sr.) |
| SS | 20 Darnell Bing (6-2, 220, Jr.) |

SPECIALISTS

| | |
|----|----------------------------------|
| PK | 19 Mario Danelo (5-10, 210, So.) |
| P | 14 Tom Malone (6-0, 190, Sr.) |

RATING THE RECRUITS

- Mark Sanchez, QB
Top-rated QB in country; USC's next Heisman?
- Patrick Turner, WR
Mike Williams, then Dwayne Jarrett, now Turner.
- Averell Spicer, DE
Oklahoma? No. LSU? No. USC? Of course.
- Rey Maualuga, LB
One of the Trojans' three All-World LB recruits.
- Cary Harris, CB
He and Kevin Thomas have a chance to play now.

Despite some offseason upheaval, you'd be crazy to pick against these terrific Trojans

From the office of Careful-What-You-Wish-For, Southern California division, here's what USC coach Pete Carroll had to say prior to spring practice:

"It's an exciting challenge to be the returning national champion, and we look forward to everything that goes with that."

Consider what happened to the Trojans after they slammed Oklahoma in the Orange Bowl to cap a 13-0 season: Heisman Trophy-winning quarterback Matt Leinart decided to return to school for his senior year. Then the ego-driven rift between offensive coordinator Norm Chow and Carroll became public and Chow left for the same post with the NFL's Tennessee Titans. Suddenly facing life without his mentor, a frustrated Leinart reportedly considered applying for the NFL's supplemental draft, but denied it.

Then USC announced that several players, including tailback LenDale White, tight end Dominique Byrd, defensive end Frostee Rucker and defensive tackle Manuel Wright, would not participate in spring practice because of academic issues. All are in danger of being ineligible for the season.

Then starting cornerback Eric Wright was arrested on suspicion of rape. He was freed on bail and charges were eventually dropped, but is not expected to rejoin the team.

Then Byrd fractured his jaw in a fight with receiver Steve Smith. They were playing a video game, started arguing about money and came to blows. The result: Byrd's jaw had to be wired shut, but he got his \$200.

Then Manuel Wright, faced with being ineligible, applied for the supplemental NFL Draft. His application was approved and he hired an agent.

Then White, the starting tailback, learned of disparaging remarks made about him by freshman running back Michael Coleman. He went after Coleman in the locker room but was restrained by teammates. Coleman was then ordered to stop talking to the press.

And that was all before tax day.

But like the Miami Hurricane teams of the late 1980s and early 1990s—and like the Lakers of the early 2000s—the Trojans might be talented enough to overcome the shenanigans and win their fourth straight Pacific-10 Conference title.

They might be talented enough to overcome the loss of several key assistant coaches, including Chow, defensive line coach Ed Orgeron and offensive line coach Tim Davis, and win an unprecedented third consecutive national title.

They might be talented enough to overcome the loss of four defensive all-Americans—tackles Shaun Cody and Mike Patterson and linebackers and Matt Gootegoed and Lofa Tatupu—and take their 22-game winning streak into the mid-30s.

"In previous years, we have shown the ability to deal with the loss of great players," Carroll says. "I'm confident we have the personnel who will seize their opportunities."

Yes, the Trojans are still loaded, thanks to four brilliant recruiting seasons. They have eight starters returning on offense—don't be surprised if USC leads the nation in scoring—and six on defense. They have a bevy of future first-round draft picks in the starting lineup and a litany of Parade All-Americans on the bench.

Southern Cal is so talented that its Heisman Trophy winner, Leinart, isn't even the best offensive player on the team. That tag goes to wondrous tailback Reggie Bush, who has a knack for turning nothing plays into 60-yard touchdowns.

Despite starting just one game last season—the powerful White rushed for over 1,100 yards—Bush finished fifth in the Heisman voting, gained 2,330 all-purpose yards and scored 16 touchdowns: six rushing, seven receiving, one passing and two on punt returns. His impact on the game is immeasurable.

"Reggie creates problems wherever he lines up because of his speed and elusiveness, because teams always have to pay extra attention," Carroll says. "He has the potential to score every time he touches the ball."

That could also be said of Smith, he of the video-game fight and blazing speed; of receiver Dwayne Jarrett, who had 13 touchdowns as a freshman in '04 and is considered the next Mike Williams; and of Byrd, the 260-pound tight end.

And what of the offensive line, you may ask? Poor Trojans. They only return four starters, including tackle Sam Baker and tackle/guard Taitusi Lutui. What's more, the Trojans welcome back right tackle Winston Justice, who would have been a starter last season but was suspended because of a student conduct violation. He regained his starting spot in spring practice.

"Our line basically returns intact, and it's the best depth we've had since I've been here," Carroll says.



And they'll be blocking for one of the most accomplished college quarterbacks in history. Leinart is hoping to add a second Heisman and third national title to his resume. Assuming he recovers from off-season elbow surgery—some believe the elbow, not school spirit, is the reason he bypassed the NFL Draft—Leinart should have a terrific season.

Whether it's an historic season depends on how the Trojans handle Chow's departure. Receivers coach Lane Kiffin was promoted to offensive coordinator, and Steve Sarkisian, a now protégé, was hired away from the Oakland Raiders to coach the quarterbacks. He'll probably spend more time with the highly touted backs, John David Booty, Rocky Hinds and Matt Sanchez, than with Leinart.

Then again, does it really matter who's playing quarterback or calling the plays? The Trojans have enough talent to average 40 points a game with Kermit the Frog running the show.

But if USC has anything close to a weakness, it's the defensive front seven. The Trojans must replace stud tackles Cody and Patterson and Manuel Wright, too. Watch for a breakout season from sophomore Sedrick Ellis, but he can't do it alone.

The Trojans converted offensive tackle Travis Draper to defense; whether he becomes a consistent contributor remains to be seen. The end spots are secure, with returnees Frostee Rucker and Lawrence Jackson, plus sophomore sack master Jeff Schweiger.

USC also lost two-thirds of its linebacking corps with the departures of Grootegoed and Tatupu. Steady Dallas Sartz is back, but he's not an uber-talent. On the other

hand, there are several young players—including sophomore Keith Rivers and a stellar freshman class that includes Ray Mauauga—who could emerge as the next Tatupu and Grootegoed.

"Dallas Sartz needs to take over a leadership role," Carroll says, "while the others need to step up in a hurry."

The secondary should be solid, with two-year starter Darnell Bing manning the strong safety spot. Cornerback Justin Wyatt missed spring practice because of a sports hernia but is expected to be ready for training camp.

The Trojans have an issue at the other corner because of Eric Wright's indefinite suspension for alleged rape. One intriguing possibility is adding DeSean Cunningham, a sprinter on the track team. Freshmen Kevin Thomas and Cary Harris could make an immediate impact.

"We were a very dominating defense last year, but this year we have some big issues to deal with," Carroll says. "Our defensive philosophy will remain the same: play fast, play aggressively and take away the football."

The return of All-America punter Tom Malone should help the reloading defense; he can kick the opponent into bad field position. But USC won't have much time to find its groove; the schedule is front-loaded, with trips to Oregon and Arizona State in the first month.

If the Trojans survive those tests, they should cruise into the Rose Bowl—not only as leaders of the Pac-10 but also as a national title contender.

The Granddaddy plays host to the BCS Championship Game. ☐

IN PROFILE ... REGGIE BUSH

The end zone is the first place to look for Trojans' Heisman candidate on field

Sure, Matt Leinart won the Heisman Trophy last season. But, according to Leinart and his USC teammates, the Trojans' MVP was Reggie Bush.

"He's the best player in college football," Leinart, the team's all-everything quarterback, told reporters just before USC trounced Oklahoma in the national championship game. "I voted for him. I didn't even hesitate."

As for Bush, a 6-foot, 200-pound junior all-purpose running back, he'll still face steep competition for team Heisman honors in 2005, as Leinart has returned for another season at USC. Bush finished fifth in Heisman voting last season.

Nicknamed "The President" after being acknowledged by W. himself following the team's White House visit in March 2004—an invitation spurred by USC's shared national title the previous season—Bush took the compliment to heart.

Off the field, for example, the former psychology major has switched to, yes, political science. Does this portend political aspirations? "No, it's just because it's easier," Bush says, chuckling.

Having already secured presidential praise, Bush got plenty of Beltway love with a sterling performance at Washington's FedEx Field, where USC opened the season last August against Virginia Tech. He dominated the game, hauling in five



passes for 127 yards and scoring three touchdowns in a 24-13 win.

For most running backs, moving to wideout and putting on such a performance would be surprising. Not so for Bush, who during two seasons at USC has produced touchdowns by rushing, receiving, returning punts, returning kickoffs and even passing.

During 2004, Bush's multitasking added up to 2,330 all-purpose yards and 15 touchdowns.

"We asked Reggie to sacrifice some of his running back stuff to help us out with our receivers," says Todd McNair, USC's running backs coach. "He had to give up some carries. One of the things we're working on is his patience. He does so many things that he expects to score every time he gets the ball. As a runner, you have to let things develop."

And that's about as much criticism as McNair can muster. Bush, by all accounts, is an affable, hard-working superstar.

Affable to all except opposing defenses, that is. Experts say Bush may be the most disruptive force in all of college football.

"Watch when he's on the field and watch all the pointing that goes on from the defense when he's on the field," says TBS analyst Charles Davis. "You see everybody moving and jumping and pointing: 'There he is, over there, there he is!'"

In the end, finding Bush isn't that hard, after all. Just look in the end zone.

—Erik Spanberg

2004 TEAM STATS

| TEAM STATISTICS | USC | OPP |
|----------------------|-----------|------------|
| SCORING | 496 | 169 |
| Points Per Game | 38.2 | 13.0 |
| FIRST DOWNS | 292 | 201 |
| Rushing | 123 | 66 |
| Passing | 150 | 124 |
| Penalty | 19 | 11 |
| RUSHING YARDAGE | 2306 | 1032 |
| Yards gained rushing | 2646 | 1561 |
| Yards lost rushing | 340 | 529 |
| Rushing Attempts | 493 | 394 |
| Average Per Rush | 4.7 | 2.6 |
| Average Per Game | 177.4 | 79.4 |
| TDs Rushing | 27 | 5 |
| PASSING YARDAGE | 3532 | 2599 |
| Att-Cmp-Int | 430-282-7 | 457-246-22 |
| Average Per Pass | 8.2 | 5.7 |
| Average Per Catch | 12.5 | 10.6 |
| Average Per Game | 271.7 | 199.9 |
| TDs Passing | 34 | 13 |
| TOTAL OFFENSE | 5838 | 3631 |
| Total Plays | 923 | 851 |
| Average Per Play | 6.3 | 4.3 |
| Average Per Game | 449.1 | 279.3 |
| KICK RETURNS: #-YDS | 29-687 | 45-952 |
| PUNT RETURNS: #-YDS | 30-406 | 22-203 |
| INT RETURNS: #-YDS | 22-358 | 7-75 |
| KICK RETURN AVERAGE | 23.7 | 21.2 |
| PUNT RETURN AVERAGE | 13.5 | 9.2 |
| INT RETURN AVERAGE | 16.3 | 10.7 |
| FUMBLES-LOST | 26-12 | 33-16 |
| PENALTIES-YARDS | 73-587 | 77-554 |
| Average Per Game | 45.2 | 42.6 |
| PUNTS-YARDS | 51-2165 | 85-3691 |
| Average Per Punt | 42.5 | 43.4 |
| Net punt average | 38.5 | 38.6 |
| TIME OF POSS./GAME | 31:43 | 28:17 |
| 3RD-DOWN CONV. | 79/182 | 54/190 |
| 3rd-Down Pct | 43% | 28% |
| 4TH-DOWN CONV. | 11/21 | 10/19 |
| 4th-Down Pct | 52% | 53% |
| SACKS BY-YARDS | 50-344 | 25-176 |
| MISC YARDS | 32 | 4 |
| TOUCHDOWNS SCORED | 64 | 20 |
| FIELD GOALS-ATTEMPTS | 16-25 | 10-16 |
| PAT-ATTEMPTS | 64-64 | 17-18 |
| ATTENDANCE | 511373 | 279188 |
| Games/Avg Per Game | 6/85229 | 5/55838 |
| Neutral Site Games | | 2/84788 |

| SCORE BY QTRS* | 1st | 2nd | 3rd | 4th | OT | Total |
|----------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|-------|
| USC | 96 | 176 | 114 | 110 | — | 496 |
| Opponents | 33 | 71 | 39 | 26 | — | 169 |

2004 INDIVIDUAL STATS OFFENSE

PASSING

| | | | | | | | |
|--------------|----|--------|-------------|------|------|----|-------|
| Matt Leinart | GP | Effic. | Att-Cmp-Int | Pct. | Yds. | TD | Avg/G |
| | 13 | 156.54 | 412-269-6 | 65.3 | 3322 | 33 | 255.5 |

| | | | | | | | |
|-------------|----|--------|-------------|------|------|----|-------|
| Matt Cassel | GP | Effic. | Att-Cmp-Int | Pct. | Yds. | TD | Avg/G |
| | 9 | 115.34 | 14-10-1 | 71.4 | 97 | 0 | 10.8 |

RUSHING

| | | | | | |
|---------------|----|------|----------|------|-------|
| Lendale White | GP | Att. | Net Avg. | TD | Avg/G |
| | 13 | 203 | 110.3 | 5.4 | 15 |
| Reggie Bush | | 13 | 143 | 90.8 | 6 |
| Desmond Reed | | 13 | 31 | 173 | 5.6 |

| | | | | | | |
|----------------|----|-----|------|------|----|-------|
| Dwayne Jarrett | GP | No. | Yds. | Avg. | TD | Avg/G |
| | 13 | 55 | 849 | 15.4 | 13 | 65.3 |

| | | | | | | |
|-------------|----|-----|------|------|----|-------|
| Reggie Bush | GP | No. | Yds. | Avg. | TD | Avg/G |
| | 13 | 43 | 509 | 11.8 | 7 | 39.2 |

| | | | | | | |
|-------------|----|-----|------|------|----|-------|
| Steve Smith | GP | No. | Yds. | Avg. | TD | Avg/G |
| | 8 | 42 | 660 | 15.7 | 6 | 82.5 |

DEFENSE

| | | | | |
|-----------------|----|------|------|-------|
| TACKLES | GP | Solo | Ast. | Total |
| Lofa Tatupu | 13 | 57 | 47 | 104 |
| Matt Grootegoed | 13 | 42 | 26 | 68 |
| Darnell Bing | 12 | 43 | 20 | 63 |

SACKS

| | | | |
|----------------|----|------|------|
| Shaun Cody | GP | No. | Yds. |
| | 13 | 10.0 | 88 |
| Mike Patterson | | 13 | 6.0 |

| | | | |
|------------------|----|-----|------|
| Lawrence Jackson | GP | No. | Yds. |
| | 13 | 6.0 | 31 |

INTERCEPTIONS

| | | | |
|-----------------|------|------|------|
| No. | Yds. | Avg. | TD |
| Matt Grootegoed | 5 | 107 | 21.4 |
| Jason Leach | 3 | 20 | 6.7 |
| Lofa Tatupu | 3 | 38 | 12.7 |



TERRENCE WHITEHEAD, TB

2005 SCHEDULE

| DATE | OPPONENT | '04 RESULT |
|-------|-------------------|------------|
| S. 1 | @HOUSTON | |
| S. 10 | Montana | |
| S. 17 | Fresno State | |
| S. 24 | USC | |
| O. 1 | @STANFORD | 16-13 |
| O. 8 | @ARIZONA STATE | 13-28 |
| O. 15 | Washington | 31-6 |
| O. 22 | @ARIZONA | 28-14 |
| N. 5 | California | 27-28 |
| N. 12 | @WASHINGTON STATE | 41-38 |
| N. 19 | Oregon State | 21-50 |

PROJECTED STARTERS

| |
|---|
| Starters returning: 15 |
| Lettermen returning/lost: 42/24 |
| OFFENSE |
| QB 11 Kellen Clemens (6-2, 218, Sr.) |
| TB 24 Terrence Whitehead (5-10, 220, Sr.) |
| HB 82 Dan Kause (6-4, 245, Jr.) |
| LT 60 Max Unger (6-5, 291, r-Fr.) |
| LG 77 Palauni Ma Sun (6-5, 365, Jr.) |
| C 55 Enoka Lucas (6-3, 296, Jr.) |
| RG 59 Ian Reynolds (6-4, 305, Sr.) |
| RT 75 Geoff Schwartz (6-7, 351, So.) |
| TE 85 Tim Day (6-4, 265, Sr.) |
| WR 6 Demetrius Williams (6-2, 191, Sr.) |
| WR 18 James Finley (6-2, 206, Jr.) |
| DEFENSE |
| LE 92 Devan Long (6-4, 266, Sr.) |
| LT 96 Haloti Ngata (6-5, 338, Jr.) |
| RT 45 Matt Toeaina (6-3, 279, Jr.) |
| RE 56 Victor Filipe (6-2, 275, Jr.) |
| LB 34 A.J. Tuitieli (5-11, 210, So.) |
| LB 42 Brent Haberly (6-0, 220, Jr.) |
| ROV 15 Patrick Chung (5-11, 197, r-Fr.) |
| LBC 5 Aaron Gipson (5-9, 179, Sr.) |
| RCB 31 Justin Phinisee (5-11, 200, Sr.) |
| FS 28 J.D. Nelson (5-11, 211, Jr.) |
| SS 84 Anthony Trucks (6-1, 226, Sr.) |
| SPECIALISTS |
| PK 36 Paul Martinez (6-2, 215, Jr.) |
| P 14 Matt Dragich (6-1, 22, Jr.) |

RATING THE RECRUITS

1. Jonathan Stewart, RB
Best incoming running back in the conference.
2. James Finley, WR
At 6-foot-3, could be a dominant possession receiver.
3. Jason Turner, LB
Desperate for linebackers, the Ducks signed three from JCs.
4. Edward Dickson, TE
Says he had offers from Oklahoma and USC.
5. Palauni Ma Sun, OL
JC transfer could play immediately.

DAVID DUROCHIK / SPORTSPIGS

OREGON DUCKS

2004 Record: 5-6 overall, 4-4 Pac-10

Stadium: Autzen Stadium

Official athletic Web site: www.goducks.com

Turf: Artificial

Capacity: 54,000

PRESEASON RANK:

2

FIVE-YEAR WINS TREND



Head coach: Mike Bellotti, 11th Year (80-40) Career Record: 101-65-2

Assistant coaches: Neal Zoumboukos (asst. head coach/off. line), Nick Aliotti (def. coord.), Gary Campbell (RBS), Dan Ferrigno (WRs), Steve Greatwood (def. line), John Neal (secondary), Don Pellum (Lbs), Michael Gray (def. line), Gary Crowton (off. coord.)



Bellotti chunks comfort zone in favor off new look on offense

Last season, Boise State, California and Arizona State ranked fourth, fifth and 16th in the country, respectively, in total offense. Among them, they averaged 1,419 yards per game. But the teams had more in common than production. Their offensive systems were fraternal twins—each a variant of what has become known on the West Coast as the “Oregon offense.”

The connections make perfect sense, given that Cal coach Jeff Tedford, Arizona State coach Dirk Koetter and Boise play-caller Chris Petersen are all former Ducks assistants.

Since the mid-1980s, the Oregon offense has been based on several principles: a commitment to protecting the quarterback, a moving pocket, misdirection plays (i.e., screens and play-action) and an ability to strike short and long. It has been tweaked and refined over the years, but the fundamentals remain the same, whether they are being applied in Boise, Tempe or Berkeley.

What's different this season is that Oregon will no longer be running the Oregon offense. That's right, after the Ducks' first losing season

in 12 years, coach Mike Bellotti has ditched his traditional attack in favor of its longtime rival for West Coast aerial supremacy: the spread offense, long favored by Washington State and Oregon State and made popular in recent years by Utah.

It is a tectonic shift—nearly on the order of the Ducks switching from Nike to Adidas. Yet Bellotti felt it was time for change and orchestrated a series of staff changes that included offensive coordinator Andy Ludwig leaving for the same post at Utah. Bellotti then hired former Brigham Young coach Gary Crowton to install the spread.

“I've said for a couple years that we need to look at some alternate schemes because our constituency, our athletes, have changed and what we're seeing [from defenses] has changed,” Bellotti says. “Gary has more of a background in a spread offense and our quarterbacks are mobile, and we need to put them in situations where they will have more run [or] pass opportunities.

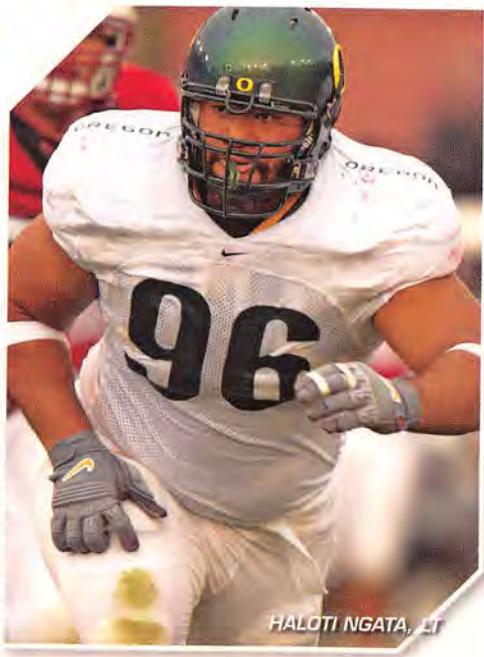
“It's going to be a mix of what Oregon has done in the past and some things Gary did at BYU that fit in perfectly with what we've gleaned from Utah.”

The new offense is the most significant but hardly the only change implemented by Bellotti, who was discouraged by Oregon's performance last season. The Ducks opened with a home loss to Indiana, closed with a 31-point loss at Oregon State and finished 5-6—missing a bowl bid for the first time since 1996. The most frustrating thing for Duck fans was to watch their team win four in a row midway through the season, only to finish oh-for-November.

“We didn't accomplish our goals last [season], and we can't look anywhere but to ourselves, both as a coaching staff and a team, for the reason,” Bellotti says. “The bottom line is we have enough talent to compete and do what we need to do. We weren't tough enough last year, we did not make plays when it counted, we made too many mistakes and we committed too many penalties.”

But this season—with seven starters back on offense and defense, with the No. 2 quarterback in the conference, a 1,000-yard rusher, the best defensive lineman in the West, a veteran secondary and favorable schedule—the Ducks are a solid bet to finish second to USC.

Of course, much of their success depends on executing the spread offense. The man at the controls, senior Kellen Clemens, threw for 2,548 yards and 22 touchdowns last season and enters the fall as arguably the second-best quarterback in



HALOTI NGATA, LT

the conference behind USC's Matt Leinart. He has the right combination of accuracy and mobility to operate the attack.

He also has one of the league's better tailbacks, senior Terrence Whitehead, who averaged 104 yards per game last season. (Whitehead had offseason knee surgery and was held out of contact drills in spring practice.) The Ducks return just two starters on the line in center Enoka Lucas and guard Ian Reynoso, but that's part of the reason Bellotti switched to the spread. In theory, Clemens will unload the ball quicker, thus relieving pressure on the pass blockers.

But the success of the spread will depend largely on the receivers. Instead of needing two productive wideouts, Oregon needs a minimum of three and preferably four. Expectations are high for senior Demetrius Williams, who caught 47 passes in '04, and for sophomore Cameron Colvin, a prized recruit two years ago who averaged 13.6 yards per catch as a rookie. The Ducks bolstered the unit in the offseason when they signed James Finley from Compton (Calif.) Community College. They also have a playmaker in tight end Tim Day.

Just as the Ducks are strong in the offensive backfield, so are they strong in the defensive backfield. All four starters return to the secondary, including cornerback Aaron Gipson and free safety J.D. Nelson. That experience will allow defensive coordinator Nick Aliotti to play man-to-man cover and blitz his linebackers—the same approach he used so successfully in the mid-1990s with lockdown cornerbacks Kenny Wheaton and Alex Molden.

The Ducks have also replaced an outside linebacker with a third safety, making it appear as if they're in a 4-2-5 alignment. But Bellotti says the extra safety will function like a linebacker.

Aliotti won't have to worry about the pass rush, because tackle Haloti Ngata is the most dominating defensive lineman in the West. The 338-pound, low-to-the-ground Ngata simply cannot be blocked one-on-one—he dwarfs most Pac-10 linemen—and the resulting double teams create pass-rushing lanes for end Devan Long, who had 15 tackles for loss last season.

The biggest concern on defense is finding two inside linebackers. Chris Vincent was moved from tailback and could be a regular contributor. The Ducks also signed three junior college linebackers, including Jason Turner, who missed part of spring practice—time he could not afford to lose—to a pulled hamstring.

The final change implemented by Bellotti comes on special teams. For years, the Ducks kicked and covered and returned as well as any team in the conference, but they have struggled in several areas recently. So instead of one coach overseeing the special teams, Bellotti has assigned an assistant to each unit. The hope is that more individual instruction, more scrutiny and more video review will lead to improved execution.

Justin Phinisee returns as one of the Pac-10's best punt returners (15.4-yard average last season); he also figures to get significant time in the secondary. Junior-college transfer Matt Dragich is expected to handle the punting duties, while former punter Paul Martinez takes over for departed kicker Jared Siegel.

The spread offense, the new defensive alignment, revamping the special teams—they all sound like smart moves on Bellotti's part. But they also require more coaching by his staff and better concentration by his players. Odds are, the new schemes will prove beneficial but could take time to absorb. And considering USC visits Eugene on Sept. 24, time is in short supply. ■

IN PROFILE ... KELLEN CLEMENS

With Crowton on board to coordinate, senior's talents set to be unleashed

Like everyone else in the Oregon football program, senior quarterback Kellen Clemens considers the 2004 season a nightmare—and an aberration.

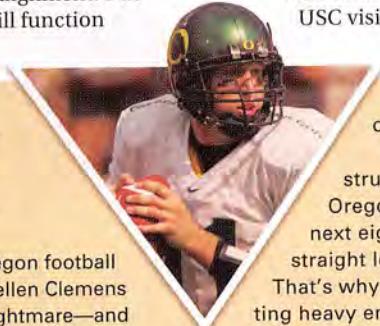
The Ducks' 5-6 record snapped a seven-year run of bowl appearances, prompting coach Mike Bellotti to hand Clemens more responsibility in an offseason offensive overhaul.

In: Gary Crowton, the attacking mastermind whose previous stops include head-coaching stints at Louisiana Tech and BYU and coordinating the Chicago Bears' offense.

Out: Anything resembling conservative football.

"Kellen is mobile, tough and an accurate passer," Bellotti says. "What we want to see is how we can make that translate into more wins. One of the ways we think that can happen is with the spread offense, by opening things up."

Clemens didn't have a shabby season in 2004. He completed 223 of 372 attempts, good for 22 TDs and 2,548 yards. He threw 10 interceptions, though, including three in a humiliating season-



opening home loss to Indiana.

After that game, the Ducks struggled to get back on track. Oregon rallied to go 5-3 over the next eight games, but faded with three straight losses to close the season.

That's why Bellotti and Clemens are putting heavy emphasis on the season opener against Houston.

"We need to win that first one because it really sets the tone," Clemens says. "That's what's on my mind. And the other thing is how much fun we had during spring practice. We tried so many new things and it's going to be exciting to see how we use those things once we start playing games."

Bellotti expects Clemens to pick up the new offense quickly. After all, it's similar to the system he used during his prep days in Burns, Ore., where Clemens gained national attention during a stellar career.

Says TBS college football analyst Charles Davis: "You can't have a more exciting time to be quarterback than what is happening at Oregon right now. You don't bring in Gary Crowton to be buttoned-down. I think it shakes out very well for Kellen Clemens."

—Erik Spanberg

2004 TEAM STATS

| TEAM STATISTICS | OREGON | OPP |
|-------------------------|------------|------------|
| SCORING | 282 | 282 |
| Points Per Game | 25.6 | 25.6 |
| FIRST DOWNS | 237 | 208 |
| Rushing | 101 | 73 |
| Passing | 118 | 115 |
| Penalty | 18 | 20 |
| RUSHING YARDAGE | 1746 | 1343 |
| Yards gained rushing | 2056 | 1751 |
| Yards lost rushing | 310 | 408 |
| Rushing Attempts | 429 | 406 |
| Average Per Rush | 4.1 | 3.3 |
| Average Per Game | 158.7 | 122.1 |
| TDs Rushing | 12 | 11 |
| PASSING YARDAGE | 2621 | 2385 |
| Att-Comp-Int | 388-229-10 | 344-182-13 |
| Average Per Pass | 6.8 | 6.9 |
| Average Per Catch | 11.4 | 13.1 |
| Average Per Game | 238.3 | 216.8 |
| TDs Passing | 22 | 19 |
| TOTAL OFFENSE | 4367 | 3728 |
| Total Plays | 817 | 750 |
| Average Per Play | 5.3 | 5.0 |
| Average Per Game | 397.0 | 338.9 |
| KICK RETURNS: #-YDS | 42-794 | 48-1031 |
| PUNT RETURNS: #-YDS | 31-345 | 24-245 |
| INT RETURNS: #-YDS | 13-155 | 10-88 |
| KICK RETURN AVERAGE | 18.9 | 21.5 |
| PUNT RETURN AVERAGE | 11.1 | 10.2 |
| INT RETURN AVERAGE | 11.9 | 8.8 |
| FUMBLES-LOST | 23-14 | 13-9 |
| PENALTIES-YARDS | 95-877 | 66-582 |
| Average Per Game | 79.7 | 52.9 |
| PUNTS-YARDS | 61-2307 | 60-2476 |
| Average Per Punt | 37.8 | 41.3 |
| Net punt average | 33.8 | 35.5 |
| TIME OF POSSESSION/GAME | 31:08 | 28:52 |
| 3RD-DOWN CONV. | 61/159 | 69/168 |
| 3rd-Down Pct | 38% | 41% |
| 4TH-DOWN CONV. | 11/21 | 4/10 |
| 4th-Down Pct | 52% | 40% |
| SACKS BY-YARDS | 33-221 | 41-221 |
| MISC YARDS | 8 | 11 |
| TOUCHDOWNS SCORED | 37 | 33 |
| FIELD GOALS-ATTEMPTS | 9-14 | 17-26 |
| PAT-ATTEMPTS | 33-35 | 31-32 |
| ATTENDANCE | 348352 | 255598 |
| Games/Avg Per Game | 6/58059 | 5/51120 |
| Neutral Site Games | | 0/0 |

| SCORE BY QTRS | 1st | 2nd | 3rd | 4th | OT | Total |
|---------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|-------|
| Oregon | 85 | 57 | 72 | 68 | — | 282 |
| Opponents | 75 | 71 | 74 | 62 | — | 282 |

2004 INDIVIDUAL STATS OFFENSE

PASSING

| | | | | | | | |
|----------------|--------|------------|-------------|------|------|-------|-------|
| Kellen Clemens | GP | Effic. | Att-Cmp-Int | Pct. | Yds. | TD | Avg/G |
| 11 | 131.62 | 372-223-10 | 59.9 | 2548 | 22 | 231.6 | |

Dennis Dixon

| | | | | | | | |
|--------------|-------|--------|-------------|------|------|------|-------|
| Dennis Dixon | GP | Effic. | Att-Cmp-Int | Pct. | Yds. | TD | Avg/G |
| 6 | 80.88 | 15-6-0 | 40.0 | 73 | 0 | 12.2 | |

RUSHING

| | | | | | |
|----------------|-----|------|----------|----|-------|
| T.Whitehead | GP | Att. | Net Avg. | TD | Avg/G |
| 11 | 200 | 1144 | 5.7 | 6 | 104.0 |
| Kellen Clemens | 11 | 118 | 190 | 1 | 17.3 |
| Ken Washington | 11 | 48 | 161 | 3 | 14.6 |

RECEIVING

| | | | | | | |
|-------------|----|-----|------|------|------|-------|
| D. Williams | GP | No. | Yds. | Avg. | TD | Avg/G |
| 10 | 47 | 593 | 12.6 | 2 | 59.3 | |
| T.Whitehead | 11 | 44 | 405 | 9.2 | 2 | 36.8 |

Tim Day

| | | | | | | |
|---------|----|-----|------|------|------|-------|
| Tim Day | GP | No. | Yds. | Avg. | TD | Avg/G |
| 11 | 35 | 457 | 13.1 | 8 | 41.5 | |

DEFENSE

| TACKLES | GP | Solo | Ast. | Total |
|--------------|----|------|------|-------|
| Jerry Matson | 11 | 50 | 28 | 78 |
| J.D. Nelson | 11 | 39 | 27 | 66 |
| Ramone Reed | 11 | 38 | 26 | 64 |

SACKS

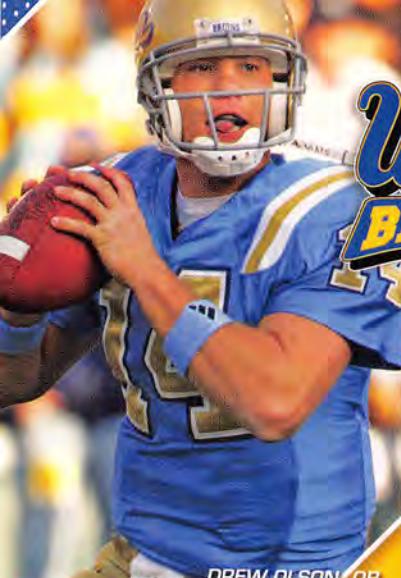
| Devan Long | GP | No. | Yds. |
|----------------|----|-----|------|
| 11 | 11 | 7.5 | 56 |
| Anthony Trucks | 11 | 6.5 | 47 |

Chris Solomona

| | | | |
|----------------|-----|-----|------|
| Chris Solomona | GP | No. | Yds. |
| 11 | 5.0 | 5.0 | 27 |

INTERCEPTIONS

| Aaron Gipson | GP | No. | Yds. | Avg. | TD |
|----------------|----|-----|------|------|----|
| 4 | 39 | 9.8 | 0 | | |
| Chris Solomona | 2 | 44 | 22.0 | 2 | |
| Ramone Reed | 2 | 13 | 6.5 | 0 | |



UCLA
BRUINS

UCLA
BRUINS

LOS ANGELES

2004 Record: 6-6 overall, 4-4 Pac-10 (lost to Wyoming in the Las Vegas Bowl, 24-21)

Stadium: Rose Bowl

Turf: Grass

Capacity: 91,500

Official athletic Web site: www.uclabruins.com

PRESEASON RANK:

FIVE-YEAR WINS TREND

3

6 7 8 6 6
2000 2001 2002 2003 2004

Head coach: Karl Dorrell, 3rd Year (12-13) Career Record: 12-13

Assistant coaches: Tom Cable (off. coord./off. line), Larry Kerr (def. coord./ILBs), Jon Embree (asst. head coach/TEs), Dino Babers (WRs), Eric Bienemy (RBS/recruiting coord.), Gary DeLoach (second-ary/CBs), Thurmond Moore (def. line), Brian Schneider (special teams/safeties), Jim Svoboda (QBs)



2005 SCHEDULE

| DATE | OPPONENT | '04 RESULT |
|-------|-------------------|------------|
| S. 3 | @SAN DIEGO STATE | 33-10 |
| S. 10 | Rice | |
| S. 17 | Oklahoma | |
| O. 1 | Washington | 37-31 |
| O. 8 | California | 28-45 |
| O. 15 | @WASHINGTON STATE | 29-31 |
| O. 22 | Oregon State | |
| O. 29 | @STANFORD | 21-0 |
| N. 5 | @ARIZONA | 37-17 |
| N. 12 | Arizona State | 42-48 |
| D. 3 | @USC | 24-29 |

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 17
Lettermen returning/lost: 49/15

OFFENSE

| | | |
|----|----|----------------------------------|
| QB | 14 | Drew Olson (6-3, 217, Sr.) |
| FB | 32 | Michael Pitre (5-11, 232, So.) |
| TB | 21 | Maurice Drew (5-8, 198, Jr.) |
| ST | 73 | Ed Blanton (6-9, 345, Sr.) |
| SG | 71 | Shannon Tevaga (6-3, 303, So.) |
| C | 59 | Mike McCloskey (6-5, 274, Sr.) |
| WG | 75 | Robert Cleary (6-7, 299, Sr.) |
| WT | 60 | Chris Joseph (6-4, 267, So.) |
| TE | 19 | Marcedes Lewis (6-6, 255, Sr.) |
| SE | 8 | Junior Taylor (6-1, 198, Sr.) |
| FL | 1 | Brandon Brezzell (6-0, 154, So.) |

DEFENSE

| | | |
|-----|----|---------------------------------|
| DE | 98 | Kyle Morgan (6-3, 254, Sr.) |
| DT | 75 | Kevin Brown (6-2, 285, Jr.) |
| DT | 77 | Kenneth Lombard (6-1, 280, So.) |
| DE | 17 | Justin Hickman (6-1, 260, Jr.) |
| OLB | 40 | Wesley Walker (6-3, 222, Sr.) |
| ILB | 9 | Justin London (6-1, 235, Sr.) |
| ILB | 41 | Spencer Havner (6-4, 236, Sr.) |
| LCB | 3 | Rodney Van (6-1, 166, So.) |
| RCB | 22 | Michael Norris (5-11, 175, So.) |
| FS | 14 | Chris Horton (6-1, 195, So.) |
| SS | 4 | Jarrad Page (6-2, 220, Sr.) |

SPECIALISTS

| | | |
|----|----|--------------------------------|
| PK | 7 | Justin Medlock (6-0, 185, Jr.) |
| P | 17 | Aaron Perez (6-2, 200, Fr.) |

RATING THE RECRUITS

1. Ben Olson, QB
BYU transfer was the top-rated prep passer in 2001.
2. Logan Paulsen, TE
A solid student who considered Stanford.
3. Shawn Oatis, S
Hard hitter turned down offer from Notre Dame.
4. Aaron Ware, CB
Was also a top RB in high school.
5. Aleksey Lanis, OL
Good technique, but needs to get stronger.

They're not twins, but Dorrell has tough time deciding between Olsons at quarterback

UCLA broke spring practice without knowing its starting quarterback. Well, that's half true. The starter probably will be named Olson. It's just a matter of determining which of the unrelated Olsons it is.

In one locker: Drew Olson, the two-year starter who threw 20 touchdowns last season. He suffered torn knee ligaments in the Las Vegas Bowl loss to Wyoming and had reconstructive surgery in January. Given the seven-to-nine-month recovery period, there's no guarantee that Olson will be healthy for the season opener—much less healthy enough to participate in training camp and work off the rust.

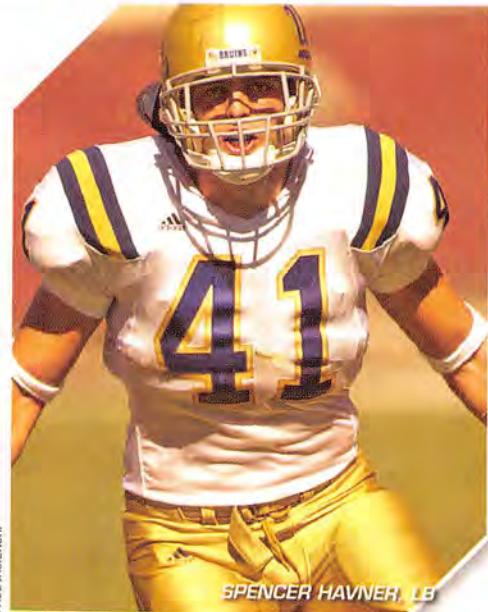
"Drew was a real key for us last year," Bruins coach Karl Dorrell says. "We were happy with his growth in the position. ... We're hopeful that he'll continue his maturation and be an even better quarterback when he returns."

In the other locker: Ben Olson. If the name seems familiar, it should. In the fall of 2001, Ben Olson was the top-rated quarterback prospect in the country. He signed with Brigham Young, spent one season as a redshirt, then bolted for a two-year Mormon church mission. Along the way, he decided BYU wasn't right for him after all. After the mission, the recruiting began all over again. UCLA won the sweepstakes, in part because Olson is from nearby Thousand Oaks.

Ben Olson enrolled in January and participated in offseason conditioning drills. He was rusty during spring practice—no surprise, given that he hadn't played in more than three years—but nevertheless showed the arm strength that made him so coveted out of high school.

If Drew Olson isn't ready for the Sept. 3 season opener at San Diego State, it seems likely that Ben Olson will get the start. There are several other players competing for the job, including senior David Koral and redshirt freshman Pat Cowan, who was surprisingly impressive in spring practice. But they don't have Ben Olson's talent.

It's quite a predicament for the Bruins, who finished 6-6 last fall and seem to lose more ground on cross-town rival USC each year. Perhaps Ben Olson sharpens his skills, Drew Olson gets healthy, and offensive coordinator Tom Cable has two gifted quarterbacks at his disposal. In that



PAUL JASIENSKI

SPENCER HAVNER, LB

scenario, the Bruins could finish second in the conference and play in a top-tier bowl game.

Then again, what if Drew Olson isn't ready for the opener, Ben Olson plays like a freshman and no one else emerges? Then the Bruins could plunge into the middle of the conference. That would put enormous pressure on Dorrell, who so far has shown no indication he's the man to lead UCLA back to the top of the league.

Dorrell is a former UCLA receiver who had never been a head coach when he was hired to replace Bob Toledo after the 2002 season, and he looked positively overwhelmed in his rookie year. The Bruins had no offense, a mediocre defense and finished 6-7. Then Dorrell got smart and hired the innovative Cable to run the offense in '04. The result was UCLA's most productive season since 1998, when quarterback Cade McNown directed a 40-points-per-game attack.

Problem was, the defense was young and soft and couldn't stop anyone except Stanford (and everyone stopped Stanford). After a 4-1 start, the Bruins lost five of their last seven. It could have been much worse, but UCLA pulled out a 34-26



victory at Oregon in November—the biggest of Dorrell's career—that saved a bowl bid.

If one of the Olsons produces, then this should be Dorrell's best team. The schedule is certainly made to order. The Bruins do not play Oregon, and they get Cal, Arizona State and Oregon State at home. Of their four conference road games, two are against the presumed bottom-feeders, Stanford and Arizona. And the Bruins have two weeks to recover from a Sept. 17 home date against Oklahoma before facing lowly Washington.

Six wins should not be a problem. Eight isn't out of the question.

"We still have a lot of work ahead as we continue to build the program," Dorrell says. "[But] there's a solid foundation in place."

Seven starters return to an offense that averaged 410 yards and 30 points per game, including several of the league's best skill players. Quarterback name-your-Olson will have the option of handing off to tailback Maurice Drew, who rushed for 1,007 yards last season and was a second-team all-conference selection. Or throwing downfield to elusive receiver Junior Taylor, who averaged 14.5 yards per reception and is expected to fill the void left by departed receiver Craig Bragg. Or dumping the ball to Marcedes Lewis, the best tight end in the conference.

Lewis, a senior from famed Long Beach Poly, is a one-man first-down machine: 25 of his 32 catches last fall produced first downs. He also grabbed seven touchdowns and was one of three finalists for the John Mackey Award, presented to the nation's best tight end.

"He started to get the most out of his considerable tools," Dorrell says. "With another year of hard work, he's capable of having an even better season."

Add three returning starters on the line, including second-team all-conference center Mike McCloskey, and the Bruins should have no trouble moving the ball. The question is whether they can stop anyone.

You'd figure that with nine returning starters, UCLA's defense would be markedly improved on experience alone. After all, coordinator Larry Kerr played six true freshmen and nine redshirt freshmen last season. But the Bruins were so bad against the run—117 yards per game allowed, good for 105th in the nation—that maturation might not be enough. The unit needs to get bigger and tougher, not just savvier.

It starts with the front four and their ability to stay healthy and stay in school. Junior tackle Kevin Brown had a terrific spring until he hyperextended a knee. After being faced with dismissal due to team-rules violations in the offseason, former starting tackle C.J. Niusulu opted to transfer in mid-May. His loss will be felt inside.

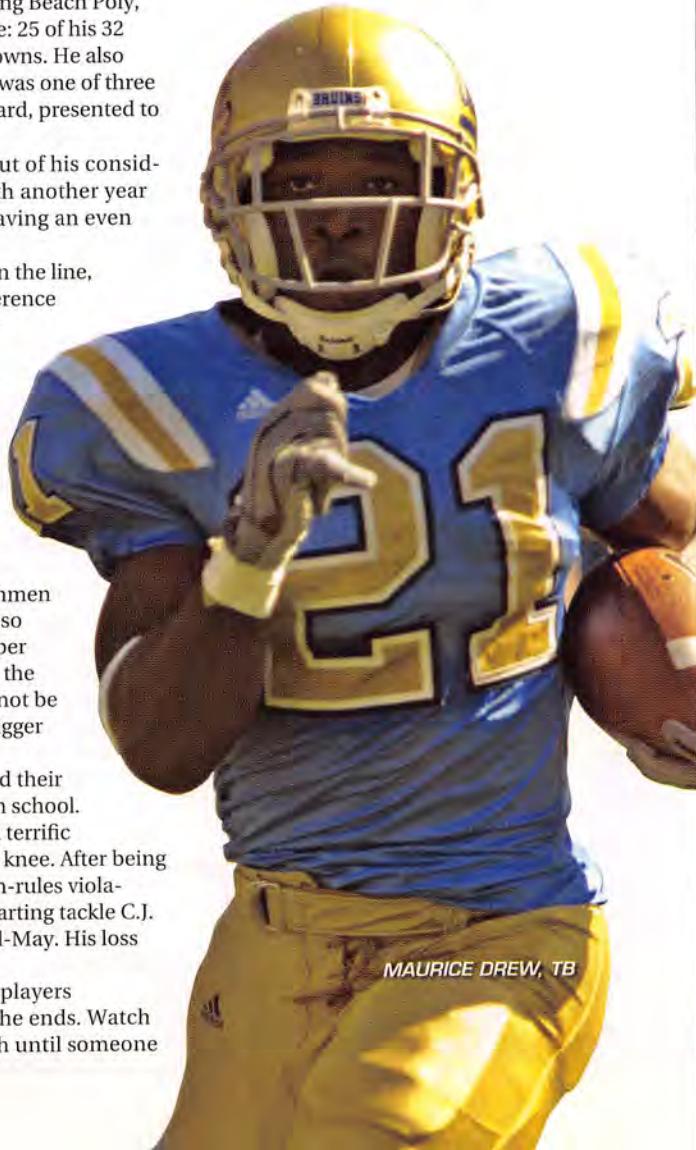
There are a handful of other players contending for repetitions on the ends. Watch for the Bruins to mix and match until someone steps forward.

"Our tackles will be much improved," Dorrell says. "Kevin was making plays on a consistent basis towards the end of 2004 and could become a big-play defender..."

There are also a slew of questions in the secondary, where the Bruins must replace all-conference cornerback Matt Clark and steady safety Ben Emanuel. Chris Horton is the best bet to take over for Emanuel, while Rodney Van could fill Clark's role. The only sure thing, safety Jarrad Page, isn't really a sure thing. He spent the spring playing baseball for the Bruins and is mulling a professional career. If he departs, then it's big trouble. But given his .163 batting average as of mid-April, it seems likely that Page will return to football.

The only unit without serious shortcomings is linebacker, where all-conference senior Spencer Havner is back to defend his Pac-10 tackles title (of 125 stops). Alongside Havner is senior Justin London, who had seven tackles-for-loss despite a nagging sprained ankle, and senior Wesley Walker.

The Bruins are also set at kicker. Junior Justin Medlock made 15 of 20 field goals last season—including three from at least 50 yards—and was a semifinalist for the Groza Award. But UCLA will have to replace Chris Kluwe, who was fifth nationally in net punting. ☐



2004 TEAM STATS

| TEAM STATISTICS | UCLA | OPP |
|----------------------|------------|------------|
| SCORING | 361 | 309 |
| Points Per Game | 30.1 | 25.8 |
| FIRST DOWNS | 242 | 256 |
| Rushing | 107 | 133 |
| Passing | 115 | 111 |
| Penalty | 20 | 12 |
| RUSHING YARDAGE | 2219 | 2521 |
| Yards gained rushing | 2509 | 2820 |
| Yards lost rushing | 290 | 299 |
| Rushing Attempts | 466 | 490 |
| Average Per Rush | 4.8 | 5.1 |
| Average Per Game | 184.9 | 210.1 |
| TDS Rushing | 18 | 18 |
| PASSING YARDAGE | 2701 | 2674 |
| Att-Cmp-Int | 358-204-13 | 408-227-14 |
| Average Per Pass | 7.5 | 6.6 |
| Average Per Catch | 13.2 | 11.8 |
| Average Per Game | 225.1 | 222.8 |
| TDS Passing | 22 | 18 |
| TOTAL OFFENSE | 4920 | 5195 |
| Total Plays | 824 | 898 |
| Average Per Play | 6.0 | 5.8 |
| Average Per Game | 410.0 | 432.9 |
| KICK RETURNS: #-YDS | 37-817 | 46-925 |
| PUNT RETURNS: #-YDS | 34-511 | 20-167 |
| INT RETURNS: #-YDS | 14-201 | 13-137 |
| KICK RETURN AVERAGE | 22.1 | 20.1 |
| PUNT RETURN AVERAGE | 15.0 | 8.4 |
| INT RETURN AVERAGE | 14.4 | 10.5 |
| FUMBLES-LOST | 20-12 | 14-5 |
| PENALTIES-YARDS | 65-521 | 69-670 |
| Average Per Game | 43.4 | 55.8 |
| PUNTS-YARDS | 61-2647 | 68-2585 |
| Average Per Punt | 43.4 | 38.0 |
| Net punt average | 40.7 | 30.5 |
| TIME OF POSS./GAME | 28:23 | 31:35 |
| 3RD-DOWN CONV. | 71/177 | 67/185 |
| 3rd-Down Pct | 40% | 36% |
| 4TH-DOWN CONV. | 7/16 | 10/23 |
| 4th-Down Pct | 44% | 43% |
| SACKS BY-YARDS | 20-111 | 23-138 |
| MISC YARDS | 0 | 17 |
| TOUCHDOWNS SCORED | 45 | 37 |
| FIELD GOALS-ATTEMPTS | 15-20 | 17-20 |
| PAT-ATTEMPTS | 42-43 | 34-34 |
| ATTENDANCE | 363092 | 304919 |
| Games/Avg Per Game | 6/60515 | 5/60984 |
| Neutral Site Games | | 1/29062 |

| SCORE BY QTRS | 1st | 2nd | 3rd | 4th | OT | Total |
|---------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|-------|
| UCLA | 95 | 116 | 76 | 74 | — | 361 |
| Opponents | 99 | 69 | 71 | 70 | — | 309 |

2004 INDIVIDUAL STATS OFFENSE

| PASSING | GP | Att. | Net Avg. | TD | Avg/G |
|----------------|----|--------|-------------|------|---------------|
| Drew Olson | GP | Effic. | Att-Cmp-Int | Pct. | Yds. TD Avg/G |
| | 12 | 132.39 | 341-196-13 | 57.5 | 2565 20 213.8 |
| David Koral | GP | Effic. | Att-Cmp-Int | Pct. | Yds. TD Avg/G |
| | 3 | 175.63 | 12-7-0 | 58.3 | 89 2 29.7 |
| RUSHING | GP | Att. | Net Avg. | TD | Avg/G |
| Maurice Drew | 11 | 160 | 1007 | 6.3 | 8 91.5 |
| Manuel White | 12 | 164 | 764 | 4.7 | 8 63.7 |
| Chris Markey | 11 | 66 | 350 | 5.3 | 1 31.8 |
| RECEIVING | GP | No. | Yds. Avg. | TD | Avg/G |
| Craig Bragg | 9 | 36 | 483 | 13.4 | 4 53.7 |
| Junior Taylor | 12 | 32 | 463 | 14.5 | 2 38.6 |
| Marcedes Lewis | 12 | 32 | 402 | 12.6 | 7 33.5 |

| DEFENSE | GP | Solo | Ast. | Total |
|----------------|-----|------|------|-------|
| TACKLES | GP | Solo | Ast. | Total |
| Spencer Havner | 11 | 84 | 41 | 125 |
| Jarrad Page | 12 | 46 | 33 | 79 |
| Ben Emanuel II | 12 | 46 | 30 | 76 |
| SACKS | GP | No. | Yds. | |
| Kevin Brown | 12 | 5.0 | 34 | |
| Bruce Davis | 12 | 2.5 | 12 | |
| Justin London | 10 | 2.0 | 11 | |
| INTERCEPTIONS | No. | Yds. | Avg. | TD |
| Jarrad Page | 3 | 20 | 6.7 | 0 |
| Matthew Clark | 3 | 48 | 16.0 | 0 |
| Trey Brown | 2 | 50 | 25.0 | 1 |



MARSHAWN LYNCH, RB



CALIFORNIA GOLDEN BEARS

2004 Record: 10-2 overall, 7-1 Pac-10 (lost to Texas Tech in the Holiday Bowl, 45-31)

Stadium: Memorial Stadium

Turf: Artificial

Capacity: 73,347

Official athletic Web site: www.calbears.com

PRESEASON RANK:

FIVE-YEAR WINS TREND

4

3 1 7 8 10
2000 2001 2002 2003 2004

Head coach: Jeff Tedford, 4th Year (25-13) Career Record: 25-13

Assistant coaches: George Cortez (off. coord./QBs), Bob Gregory (def. coord.),

Pete Alamar (special teams/TEs), Ken Delgado (def. line), Ron Gould (RBs), Eric Kiesau (WRs), Jim Michalczik (asst. head coach/off. line), Justin Wilcox (LBs), J.D. Williams (def. secondary)



2005 SCHEDULE

| DATE | OPPONENT | '04 RESULT |
|-------|-------------------|------------|
| S. 3 | Sacramento State | |
| S. 10 | @WASHINGTON | 42-12 |
| S. 17 | Illinois | |
| S. 23 | @NEW MEXICO STATE | 41-14 |
| O. 1 | Arizona | 38-0 |
| O. 8 | @UCLA | 45-28 |
| O. 15 | Oregon State | 49-7 |
| O. 22 | Washington State | |
| N. 5 | @OREGON | 28-27 |
| N. 12 | USC | 17-23 |
| N. 19 | @STANFORD | 41-6 |

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 11
Lettermen returning/lost: 42/26

OFFENSE

| | |
|----|-------------------------------------|
| QB | 18 Joseph Ayoob (6-3, 215, Jr.) |
| FB | 38 Byron Storer (6-1, 230, Jr.) |
| RB | 24 Marshawn Lynch (5-11, 200, So.) |
| LT | 71 Andrew Cameron (6-5, 320, Jr.) |
| LG | 75 Erik Robertson (6-2, 310, Jr.) |
| C | 54 Marvin Philip (6-2, 280, Sr.) |
| RG | 65 Aaron Merz (6-4, 320, Sr.) |
| RT | 61 Ryan O'Callaghan (6-7, 340, Sr.) |
| TE | 82 Craig Stevens (6-5, 250, So.) |
| WR | 11 Robert Jordan (5-11, 160, So.) |
| WR | 1 Noah Smith (5-11, 180, So.) |

DEFENSE

| | |
|-----|--------------------------------------|
| DE | 94 Tosh Lupoi (6-4, 265, Sr.) |
| DT | 52 Brandon Mebane (6-3, 290, Jr.) |
| DT | 69 Matthew Malele (6-3, 310, So.) |
| DE | 79 Nu'u Tafisi (6-2, 265, Jr.) |
| OLB | 26 Ryan Foltz (6-2, 210, Sr.) |
| MLB | 10 Desmond Bishop (6-2, 240, Jr.) |
| OLB | 8 Marlin Simmons (5-11, 205, r-Fr.) |
| CB | 13 Daymeion Hughes (6-2, 180, Jr.) |
| CB | 11 Harrison Smith (6-2, 200, Sr.) |
| S | 7 Thomas DeCoud (6-3, 190, So.) |
| ROV | 21 Donnie McCleskey (5-10, 195, Sr.) |

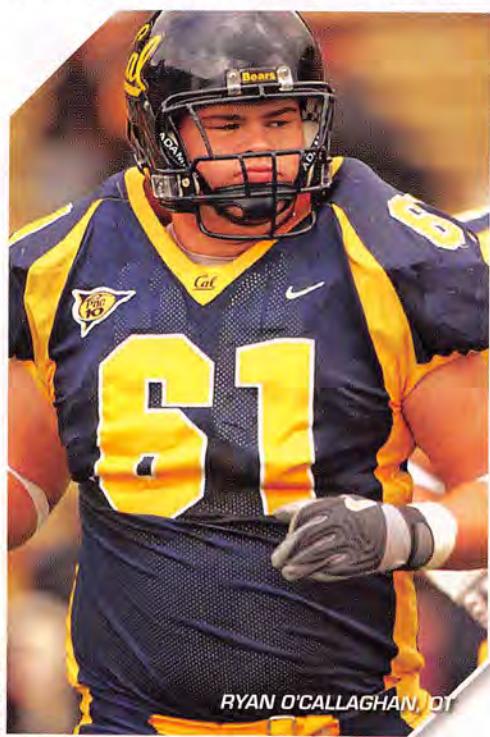
SPECIALISTS

| | |
|----|----------------------------------|
| PK | 18 Tom Schneider (6-0, 200, So.) |
| P | 14 David Lonie (6-6, 210, Sr.) |

RATING THE RECRUITS

1. Joseph Ayoob, QB
Mobile JC transfer could start the season opener.
2. DeSean Jackson, WR
Best receiver on the West Coast; turned down USC.
3. Lavelle Hawkins, WR
Teamed with Ayoob at City College of San Francisco.
4. Nuu Tafisi, DE
Another JC transfer who could play immediately.
5. Kyle Reed, QB
Should be ready to emerge for Bears in 2007.

TOMASO DEROSA



RYAN O'CALLAGHAN, OT

than fourth, win at least seven games and participate in a bowl game for the third consecutive year.

Not bad for a program that was 1-10 four years ago.

"Every year, there seems to be a new challenge," Tedford says. "The first year, we came and nobody really knew what to expect. The next year, we lost all those guys and then it was, 'Okay, wait and see how these guys fit in.' We still had enough leadership there to carry us through."

"Then we went into last season with a lot of expectations: 'Now we're in the top 15 or 20 or whatever.' It was how to deal with expectation."

"Now we lose a whole other group but it's different from losing those 24 that first year because there was still a really good foundation of leadership. Now we're very, very young. It's a whole new challenge right now."

Technically, the Bears return just six starters on offense and three on defense from a team that went 10-2. But that's a bit misleading. Linebacker Ryan Foltz started five games last season but does not count as a "returning starter." And rover Donnie McCleskey was a first-team all-conference player in '03 but started only two games last year because of a shoulder injury.

But there is no question the Bears need a quarterback to replace the sensational Aaron Rodgers, whose aptitude for the game matched his arm strength and accuracy. (He completely 66 percent of his passes.) There are two contenders for the job: redshirt freshman Nathan Longshore, and Joseph Ayoob, a transfer from City College of San Francisco. Because Rodgers was also a juco transfer, Cal fans naturally assume Ayoob will pick up where Rodgers left off. That's a bit unfair, given that Rodgers was a first-round NFL draft pick.

"I don't think you can even compare those two as far as expectations," Tedford says. "Aaron came out and no one really knew who he was. We were still at a point as a program where it was a wait-and-see type of thing ..."

"For Joe to come in, he is highly decorated coming out of junior college. There is a little more expectation on him as far as the public's concerned. As far as us as a program, we understand there's a process involved with this thing to mature and fit into this offense."

Rodgers was elusive; Ayoob is a true scrambler. But he does not have Rodgers' arm or aptitude for the game, which enabled Rodgers to quickly absorb Tedford's massive playbook. Ayoob grappled with the offense in spring



practice and probably will continue to struggle throughout the season.

Given that, it's a good thing he'll have the option of handing the ball to sophomore tailback Marshawn Lynch, whose natural gifts are exceeded in the conference only by USC's Reggie Bush. Lynch was so good last season in averaging 8.8 yards per carry that Cal isn't overly concerned about replacing J.J. Arrington, who averaged 168.2 yards per game. Lynch is strong, shifty and has amazing balance.

"Marshawn gave us a little taste of what he brings to the table last year," Tedford says. "He's a tremendous talent. We're excited about getting him in there on an every-play basis now."

There should be plenty of seams for Lynch to choose from, given that Cal returns four starters to arguably the best offensive line in the conference. Center Marvin Philip was a finalist for the Rimington Trophy last season. Tackle Ryan O'Callaghan, all 340 pounds of him, was a first-team All-Pac-10 pick.

With a terrific line and a brilliant tailback, defenses most likely will sell out to stop the run and dare Ayoob (or Longshore) to win games through the air. That would be a sound strategy, because Cal must replace three of its top four receivers: all-leaguer Geoff McArthur, Chase Lyman and Jonathan Makonnen.

Sophomore Robert Jordan had a promising freshman year (29 catches), but is suspended for the opener for disciplinary reasons. Meanwhile, junior David Gray must serve a three-game team suspension for carrying a concealed handgun. That's not exactly the leadership the Bears were looking for. Oh, and they also must replace tight end Garrett Cross, and all he did was score five touchdowns.

In other words, don't expect the Bears to average 36.8 points and 492 yards per game this season.

"We're not the team that we were last year," Tedford says.

"We lost 26 lettermen last

year. There are a lot of new faces out there. This is a learning process and the only way to learn is to let the guys make mistakes and to make sure that we communicate and we teach."

There's plenty of teaching to do on defense, as well. Let's start with the line, where Cal must replace run-stuffing tackle Lorenzo Alexander and end Ryan Riddle, who led the Pac-10 with 14.5 sacks. The Bears are counting on junior Brandon Mebane to become an elite interior player and on end Tosh Lupoi—a starter in '03 who missed last season with a broken foot—to provide a consistent pass rush. They also believe Nu'u Tafisi, a transfer from Mt. San Antonio College, will eventually post Riddle-esque numbers.

Then again, the defensive line is littered with experience compared to the linebackers. The closest thing Cal has to a returning starter in the unit is Foltz. (Greg Van Hoesen is the only other returning player who appeared in a game last season.) Redshirt freshmen Worrell Williams and Marlin Simmons are talented, but how long will it take for them to become impact players?

The secondary is the most experienced unit on defense. McCleskey has recovered from the shoulder injury and will help fill the void left by the loss of all-leaguer Matt Giordano and captain Ryan Gutierrez. Because the Bears return both starting corners, Harrison Smith and Daymeion Hughes, Tedford plans to move reserve Thomas DeCoud.

"The most important thing is for guys to come together as a unit, because we've had a tight-knit group the last couple years," defensive coordinator Bob Gregory says. "There are a lot of new faces."

The Bears had one of the best kickoff returners in the conference last season in Lynch, but because of his increased role in the offense, he might be relieved of his return duties. Punter

David Lonie is back, as is placekicker Tom Schneider and kickoff specialist Anthony Binswanger. ☐

IN PROFILE ... DONNIE McCLESKEY

Talented rover's return to health bodes well for Bears' defense

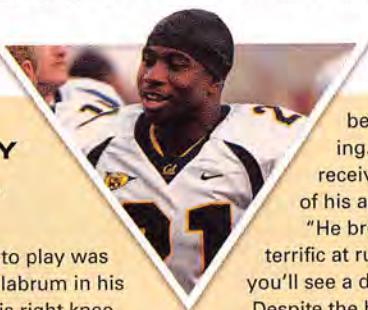
For Donnie McCleskey, failure to play was not an option. Ailing from a torn labrum in his right shoulder and tendinitis in his right knee, the Cal rover back was expected to use a medical redshirt last season.

Instead, McCleskey took on a part-time playing role and became one of the Bears' most admired locker-room leaders in the process. Last season, he compiled 38 tackles in a platoon role, far removed from a sophomore campaign that included all-conference honors and 102 tackles.

"He was limited all year because he was banged up," says Cal coach Jeff Tedford. "He was still recovering from injuries, but what he did last year shows what a true warrior he is."

TBS college football analyst Charles Davis, who covers Pac-10 games for the cable network, says many people didn't realize how serious, and nagging, McCleskey's injuries were throughout 2004.

Known for sledgehammer tackles, McCleskey couldn't crunch runners and receivers last season



because his lead shoulder was ailing. Cutting and running with wide receivers also proved difficult because of his achy knee.

"He breaks on the ball well and he's terrific at run support," Davis says. "I think you'll see a different player this year."

Despite the hardships, McCleskey believes his injury-marred junior season will make him better in 2005.

It made him mentally tougher and more determined to lead Cal's defense back after their humiliating loss to Texas Tech in the Holiday Bowl (this after the Bears proclaimed maltreatment after Texas leapfrogged them and gained a Rose Bowl bid many expected would be going to Cal).

McCleskey's shoulder and knee were repaired in separate surgeries this winter. Now he's focused on returning to form.

"There were a lot of nights last season where I'd go home and wonder what people thought of me, whether they considered me a one-hit wonder," McCleskey says. "All of that has just made me stronger and ready to be on that field again."

—Erik Spanberg

2004 TEAM STATS

| TEAM STATISTICS | CAL | OPP |
|-------------------------|-----------|------------|
| SCORING | 441 | 192 |
| Points Per Game | 36.8 | 16.0 |
| FIRST DOWNS | 291 | 200 |
| Rushing | 146 | 67 |
| Passing | 126 | 112 |
| Penalty | 19 | 21 |
| RUSHING YARDAGE | 3081 | 990 |
| Yards gained rushing | 3286 | 1368 |
| Yards lost rushing | 205 | 378 |
| Rushing Attempts | 509 | 368 |
| Average Per Rush | 6.1 | 2.7 |
| Average Per Game | 256.8 | 82.5 |
| TDs Rushing | 30 | 7 |
| PASSING YARDAGE | 2828 | 2861 |
| Att-Comp-Int | 331-219-8 | 426-221-10 |
| Average Per Pass | 8.5 | 6.7 |
| Average Per Catch | 12.9 | 12.9 |
| Average Per Game | 235.7 | 238.4 |
| TDs Passing | 27 | 17 |
| TOTAL OFFENSE | 5909 | 3851 |
| Total Plays | 840 | 794 |
| Average Per Play | 7.0 | 4.9 |
| Average Per Game | 492.4 | 320.9 |
| KICK RETURNS: #-YDS | 22-478 | 54-1108 |
| PUNT RETURNS: #-YDS | 27-299 | 18-195 |
| INT RETURNS: #-YDS | 10-166 | 8-112 |
| KICK RETURN AVERAGE | 21.7 | 20.5 |
| PUNT RETURN AVERAGE | 11.1 | 10.8 |
| INT RETURN AVERAGE | 16.6 | 14.0 |
| FUMBLES-LOST | 12-10 | 22-10 |
| PENALTIES-YARDS | 71-673 | 86-704 |
| Average Per Game | 56.1 | 58.7 |
| PUNTS-YARDS | 47-1879 | 79-3275 |
| Average Per Punt | 40.0 | 41.5 |
| Net punt average | 35.8 | 37.7 |
| TIME OF POSSESSION/GAME | 32:40 | 27:20 |
| 3RD-DOWN CONV. | 66/147 | 64/182 |
| 3rd-Down Pct | 45% | 35% |
| 4TH-DOWN CONV. | 5/9 | 6/18 |
| 4th-Down Pct | 56% | 33% |
| SACKS BY-YARDS | 37-247 | 25-116 |
| MISC YARDS | 30 | 0 |
| TOUCHDOWNS SCORED | 59 | 24 |
| FIELD GOALS-ATTEMPTS | 9-17 | 9-13 |
| PAT-ATTEMPTS | 56-57 | 21-24 |
| ATTENDANCE | 320095 | 319066 |
| Games/Avg Per Game | 5/64019 | 6/53178 |
| Neutral Site Games | | 1/63711 |

| SCORE BY QTRS | 1st | 2nd | 3rd | 4th | OT | Total |
|---------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|-------|
| California | 103 | 111 | 86 | 141 | — | 441 |
| Opponent | 64 | 61 | 33 | 34 | — | 192 |

2004 INDIVIDUAL STATS OFFENSE

| PASSING | GP | Effic. | Att-Cmp-Int | Pct. | Yds. | TD | Avg/G |
|------------------|----|--------|-------------|-----------|-------|-------|----------|
| Aaron Rodgers | GP | 12 | 154.3 | 316-209-8 | 66.1 | 2566 | 24 213.8 |
| Reggie Robertson | GP | 11 | 216.27 | 9-6-0 | 66.7 | 121 | 1 11.0 |
| Marshawn Lynch | GP | 12 | 407.80 | 2-2-0 | 100.0 | 34 | 1 2.8 |
| RUSHING | GP | Att. | Net Avg. | TD | Avg/G | | |
| J.J. Arrington | GP | 12 | 289 | 2018 | 7.0 | 15 | 168.2 |
| Marshawn Lynch | GP | 12 | 71 | 628 | 8.8 | 8 | 52.3 |
| Aaron Rodgers | GP | 12 | 74 | 126 | 1.7 | 3 | 10.5 |
| RECEIVING | GP | No. | Yds. | Avg. | TD | Avg/G | |
| Geoff McArthur | GP | 12 | 57 | 862 | 15.1 | 7 | 71.8 |
| Robert Jordan | GP | 8 | 29 | 332 | 11.4 | 2 | 41.5 |
| Garrett Cross | GP | 11 | 28 | 339 | 12.1 | 5 | 30.8 |

DEFENSE

| TACKLES | GP | Solo | Ast. | Total |
|----------------|-----|------|------|-------|
| Ryan Gutierrez | GP | 12 | 50 | 29 79 |
| Wendell Hunter | GP | 11 | 53 | 17 70 |
| Matt Giordano | GP | 12 | 41 | 20 61 |
| SACKS | GP | No. | Yds. | |
| Ryan Riddle | GP | 12 | 14.5 | 122 |
| Joe Maningo | GP | 12 | 6.0 | 40 |
| Tom Sverchek | GP | 12 | 5.5 | 35 |
| INTERCEPTIONS | No. | Yds. | Avg. | TD |
| Tim Nixon | No. | 3 | 58 | 19.3 |
| Wendell Hunter | No. | 2 | 43 | 21.5 |
| Steve Kelly | No. | 1 | 21 | 21.0 |



DEREK HAGAN, WR

2005 SCHEDULE

| DATE | OPPONENT | '04 RESULT |
|-------|-------------------|------------|
| S. 1 | Temple | |
| S. 10 | @LSU | |
| S. 17 | Northwestern | 30-21 |
| S. 24 | @OREGON STATE | 27-14 |
| O. 1 | USC | 7-45 |
| O. 8 | Oregon | 28-13 |
| O. 22 | @STANFORD | 34-31 |
| O. 29 | Washington | |
| N. 5 | @WASHINGTON STATE | 45-28 |
| N. 12 | @UCLA | 48-42 |
| N. 25 | Arizona | 27-34 |

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 15
Lettermen returning/lost: 50/10

OFFENSE

| | |
|----|-------------------------------------|
| QB | 9 Sam Keller (6-4, 227, Jr.) |
| HB | 83 Lee Burghgraef (6-5, 261, Sr.) |
| TB | 3 Rudy Burgess (5-11, 181, r-Fr.) |
| LT | 62 Brandon Rodd (6-4, 313, So.) |
| LG | 66 Stephen Berg (6-6, 319, So.) |
| C | 71 Grayling Love (6-3, 297, Sr.) |
| RG | 78 Zach Krula (6-7, 283, Jr.) |
| RT | 52 Andrew Carnahan (6-8, 297, Jr.) |
| TE | 86 Zach Miller (6-4, 250, So.) |
| WR | 80 Derek Hagan (6-2, 197, Sr.) |
| WR | 17 Terry Richardson (6-1, 185, Jr.) |

DEFENSE

| | |
|-----|----------------------------------|
| DE | 45 Mike Talbot (6-2, 235, Sr.) |
| DT | 1 Jordan Hill (6-2, 277, Jr.) |
| DT | 99 Quincy Darley (6-2, 273, Jr.) |
| DE | 50 Kyle Caldwell (6-3, 253, Jr.) |
| DVL | 29 Robert James (5-11, 213, So.) |

| | |
|-----|-----------------------------------|
| MLB | 44 Dale Robinson (6-1, 236, Sr.) |
| SLB | 4 Jamar Williams (6-1, 244, Sr.) |
| CB | 26 R.J. Oliver (5-9, 173, Sr.) |
| CB | 23 Josh Golden (5-10, 174, Sr.) |
| S | 19 Josh Barrett (6-2, 206, r-Fr.) |

| | |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| S | 13 Emmanuel Franklin (5-11, 196, Sr.) |
|---|---------------------------------------|

SPECIALISTS

| | |
|----|------------------------------------|
| PK | 20 Jesse Ainsworth (6-3, 219, Jr.) |
| P | 37 Chris MacDonald (6-4, 214, So.) |

RATING THE RECRUITS

1. Derek Shaw, QB
2. Turned down offer from Miami. A future all-league.
3. Beau Manutai, LB
4. Very aggressive, but needs to improve conditioning.
5. Zach Catanese, S
6. Nearly big enough (6-3, 215) to play small forward.
7. Grant Crunkleton, CB
8. Gotta love CBs who prefer to play press coverage.
9. Shawn DeWitt, RB
10. Reports a 38-inch vertical and benches 285.

ARIZONA STATE
SUN DEVILS

TEMPE, ARIZ.

2004 Record: 9-3 overall, 5-3 Pac-10 (beat Purdue in the Sun Bowl, 27-23)

Stadium: Sun Devil Stadium

Turf: Grass

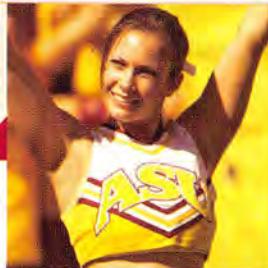
Official athletic Web site: www.thesundevils.com

Capacity: 71,706

PRESEASON RANK:

FIVE-YEAR WINS TREND

5

6 4 8 5 9
2000 2001 2002 2003 2004

Head coach: Dirk Koetter, 5th Year (26-23) Career Record: 52-33
 Assistant coaches: Tom Osborne (ass't. head coach/TEs/special teams), Mark Carrier (secondary), Dan Fidler (safeties), Mark Helfrich (QBs/passing game coord.), Darryl Jackson (WRs), Bill Miller (def. coord./LBs), Ted Monachino (def. line), Brent Myers (off. line/running game coord.), Tom Nordquist (RBs/recruiting coord.)

Off-field troubles make Sun Devils even more unpredictable than usual

The numbers don't add up. A team that went 9-3 last season and returns nine starters on offense and six on defense seemingly should be picked higher than fifth. But no team in the Pac-10 is tougher to figure than Arizona State.

Could the Sun Devils finish second? Yes. Could they push USC to the brink when the Trojans visit Tempe on Oct. 1? Absolutely. There are more than enough playmakers on the roster. But ASU could just as easily finish fifth, or worse. The uncertainty is due to two off-field incidents that took place in the spring.

The first was the shooting death of former player Brandon Falkner by running back Loren Wade. Wade was subsequently charged with first-degree murder and dismissed from the team. The second, a less significant incident, was the arrest of offensive linemen Jonathan Lehmann and Brent Russum for allegedly photographing a naked female student without her permission; they were banished as well.

When this magazine went to press, coach Dirk Koetter's job appeared secure and the Sun Devils had finished a productive month of spring practice. But the school was conducting an internal investigation into Wade's behavior before the shooting, what Koetter knew and whether he took the proper steps to prevent a possible tragedy. In addition, ASU was searching for a new athletic director (i.e., and new boss for Koetter) to replace the outgoing Gene Smith, who went to Ohio State.

Let's assume the fallout is limited, Koetter keeps his job and no other incidents arise. Let's also make a football assumption: that junior quarterback Sam Keller plays as well as the full-time starter as he did as the spot-starter in the Sun Bowl. Replacing the injured Andrew Walter, Keller threw for 370 yards and three touchdowns in a victory over Purdue. A productive, efficient Keller would make for one of the top offenses in the conference. But if Keller struggles—perhaps Purdue was an aberration—then so will ASU. His backup, Rudy Carpenter, is a redshirt freshman.

A veteran offensive line is anchored by all-league center Grayling Love, who has shifted to center. All-American receiver Derek Hagan is back for his senior year, aiming to break John Jefferson's school record for career yardage. If Hagan is double-covered, which should happen often, Keller would

IN PROFILE ...

DEREK HAGAN

Once overlooked, senior now on track to break Jefferson's ASU receiving marks

When Arizona State coach Dirk Koetter thinks about Derek Hagan, he can't believe the school almost overlooked the standout wide receiver. In early 2002, Koetter's staff gave up recruiting Hagan, who then leaned toward signing with UNLV.

A couple of weeks before National Signing Day, Koetter told one of his assistants to make another run at Hagan.

"We called him and he decided to come here," Koetter says. "Even at that point, I didn't know what we had. I figured he'd be a redshirt."

Instead, Hagan, initially projected as a defensive back, moved to wide receiver and wound up catching 32 passes for 405 yards, breaking former NFL star John Jefferson's school record for a freshman. Since then, he's never looked back.

At 6-2 and 197 pounds, Hagan has enough size to outmuscle many defensive backs for the ball. He possesses deceptive speed and has a penchant for grabbing short- and medium-range passes and converting them into long gains.

"He glides real well and he's got a nice long stride," says Charles Davis, a TBS analyst on Pac-10 games. "Hagan was a big part of what they did last year. And I think he's just going to get better."

—Erik Spanberg

have two solid options: playmaking receiver Terry Richardson, who averaged 15.1 yards per catch last season; and tight end Zach Miller, who caught 56 passes in '04 and was named Pac-10 Freshman of the Year.

The Devils are also well-stocked in the backfield with versatile Rudy Burgess, a shifty runner and first-class receiver. In addition, graduate student Chad Christensen—arguably the most versatile player in the league—can play receiver, running back or quarterback. He lost the starting job to Walter in 2002.

But there are a few questions on defense, where the Sun Devils must replace first-team all-league safety Riccardo Stewart, second-team lineman Jimmy Verdon and steady linebacker Justin Burks. The returnees are neatly arranged: two on the line, two at linebacker and two in the secondary. While no unit will be overwhelming, no unit had to be rebuilt, either. ■

WASHINGTON STATE

COUGARS

PULLMAN, WASH.

2004 Record: 5-6 overall, 3-5 Pac-10

Stadium: Martin Stadium

Official athletic Web site: www.wsucougars.com

Turf: Artificial

Capacity: 35,117



FIVE-YEAR WINS TREND



PRESEASON RANK:

6

Head coach: Bill Doba, 3rd Year (15-9) Career Record: 15-9

Assistant coaches: Robb Akey (def. coord./def. line), Leon Burtnett (LBS), Ken Greene (DBs), Mike Levenseller (off. coord./WRs), Robin Pfugrad (asst. head coach/TEs/recruiting coord.), Timm Rosenbach (QBs), Kelly Skipper (RBS), Mike Walker (def. line), George Yarno (off. line)

Pressure on for Doba to bring back days when Price was right for Cougars

Little wonder that the section of Washington State's spring prospectus devoted to coach Bill Doba was heavy on rehashing 2003 and made little mention of '04. That's because the Cougars won 10 games in Doba's rookie season but went 5-6 in his second. The question hanging over the program is whether last fall was an aberration or the beginning of a downward spiral that could eventually cost Doba his job.

The standards at WSU are much higher than they were a decade ago, before Mike Price took WSU to the 1997 and 2002 Rose Bowls. Because it has been done, the Cougar faithful now believe it should be done.

Of course, with nine starters returning on offense and six on defense, WSU certainly has the personnel to contend for a bowl bid and a spot in the league's upper division. But it won't happen without steady quarterback play—something that eluded the Cougars last season because of injuries and inexperience.

Josh Swogger was inconsistent until a foot injury ended his season. Freshman Alex Brink struggled for much of his time on the field but led the Cougars to an Apple Cup victory over Washington. Although Swogger did not participate in contact drills during spring practice, the job is his to lose, Doba indicated.

Whomever starts will be surrounded by three top-notch offensive players: tailback Jerome Harrison, receiver Jason Hill and tight end Troy Bienemann.

Harrison, nicknamed "The Ghost" by his teammates—he's there one minute, gone the next—was sensational in spring practice and should improve on last year's average of 81.8 yards per game. Whether he duplicates his performance at UCLA, when he rushed for 247 yards, remains to be seen.

Hill caught 12 touchdowns last season as a sophomore—a school record—and stands with Oregon State's Mike Haas, Arizona State's Derek Hagan and USC's Dwayne Jarrett as one of the best returning receivers in the league.

Bienemann, who attracts as much attention as some receivers, averaged 11.1 yards per catch last season despite a bruised lower leg that forced him to play center for two games.

The biggest personnel losses came up front, where the Cougars said goodbye to two all-league linemen: Calvin Armstrong (a first-team pick) and Sam Lightbody (a second-tearer). But with three starters and four backups returning, the protection should be solid and the running lanes wide.

By contrast, the defense returns most of its big bodies up front but suffered heavy losses in the backfield. Gone are starting safeties Hamza Abdullah and Jeremy Bohannon and cornerback Karl Paymah. One of Doba's primary concerns in the spring was identifying a cornerback to start opposite Alex Teems, and he was not successful.

Fortunately for the Cougars, the man at the core of the defense is one of the best in the league: middle linebacker Will Derting, a terrific leader, ferocious hitter and second-team all-conference pick in '04. Derting will help plug the hole created by the departure of defensive tackle Steve Cook, but everyone else returns to the line. Ends Adam Braidwood and Mkristo Bruce combined for 23.5 tackles for loss last season.

The Cougars are set on special teams with punter Kyle Basler (43.1-yard average), kicker Loren Langley and dynamic punt returner Michael Bumpus.

Talk about being there one minute, gone the next—Bumpus took two back for touchdowns. He'll also get plenty of snaps at receiver opposite Hill.

The bottom line: Don't be surprised if the Cougars follow last year's disappointing path. A soft early schedule (Idaho, at Nevada, Grambling State, Stanford and UCLA) should fuel an encouraging start, but a tough second half, which includes trips to Cal and USC, could leave WSU on the outside of the bowl picture once again.



WILL DERTING, LB

2005 SCHEDULE

| DATE | OPPONENT | '04 RESULT |
|-------|-----------------|------------|
| S. 1 | Idaho | 49-8 |
| S. 9 | @NEVADA | |
| S. 17 | Grambling State | |
| O. 1 | @OREGON STATE | 19-38 |
| O. 8 | Stanford | 17-23 |
| O. 15 | UCLA | 31-29 |
| O. 22 | @CALIFORNIA | |
| O. 29 | @USC | 12-42 |
| N. 5 | Arizona State | 28-45 |
| N. 12 | Oregon | 38-41 |
| N. 19 | @WASHINGTON | 28-25 |

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 17
Lettermen returning/lost: 49/15

OFFENSE

| | | |
|----|----|---------------------------------|
| QB | 9 | Josh Swogger (6-5, 245, So.) |
| SB | 5 | Michael Bumpus (5-11, 185, So.) |
| RB | 1 | Jerome Harrison (5-9, 192, Sr.) |
| LT | 70 | Bobby Byrd (6-7, 314, So.) |
| LG | 73 | Sean O'Connor (6-5, 279, Jr.) |
| C | 66 | Nick Mihlhauser (6-3, 290, Sr.) |
| RG | 76 | Norvell Holmes (6-2, 300, Sr.) |
| RT | 55 | Charles Harris (6-6, 311, Jr.) |
| TE | 81 | Troy Bienemann (6-5, 255, Sr.) |
| SE | 83 | Jason Hill (6-2, 205, Jr.) |
| FL | 2 | Chris Jordan (6-1, 214, Jr.) |

DEFENSE

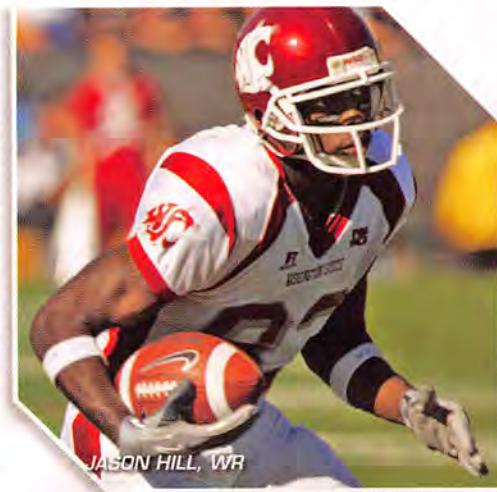
| | | |
|-----|----|---------------------------------|
| WE | 94 | Mkristo Bruce (6-6, 255, Jr.) |
| LT | 40 | Aaron Johnson (6-6, 306, So.) |
| RT | 75 | Ropati Pitoitua (6-8, 302, So.) |
| SE | 13 | Adam Braidwood (6-5, 262, Sr.) |
| WLB | 49 | Steve Dildine (6-1, 226, Jr.) |
| MLB | 51 | Will Derting (6-0, 228, Sr.) |
| SLB | 42 | Scott Davis (5-11, 230, Jr.) |
| LBC | 32 | Wally Dada (5-11, 194, Sr.) |
| RCB | 21 | Alex Teems (5-11, 184, Sr.) |
| FS | 23 | Husain Abdullah (6-0, 187, So.) |
| SS | 37 | Eric Frampton (5-11, 205, Jr.) |

SPECIALISTS

| | | |
|----|----|-------------------------------|
| PK | 27 | Loren Langley (5-7, 150, So.) |
| P | 8 | Kyle Basler (6-3, 238, Sr.) |

RATING THE RECRUITS

- 1. Bryan Tarkington, DT
JC transfer should contribute instantly.
- 2. Fevaea'i Ahmu, DT
Has 75 tackles and 12 sacks as a senior.
- 3. Arkelon Hall, QB
It was WSU or Utah, and Cougs won the battle.
- 4. Lorenzo Bursey, RB
Signed with Oregon State, then went JC route.
- 5. Shelton Danzy, CB
Cougars have produced terrific CBs over the years.



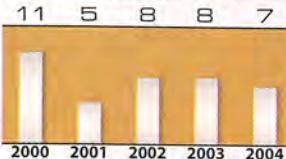
JASON HILL, WR

OREGON STATE BEAVERS



2004 Record: 7-5 overall, 5-3 Pac-10
(beat Notre Dame in the Insight Bowl, 38-21)
Official athletic Web site: www.osubeavers.com

FIVE-YEAR WINS TREND



2005 SCHEDULE

| DATE | OPPONENT | '04 RESULT |
|-------|------------------|------------|
| S. 3 | Portland State | |
| S. 10 | Boise State | 34-53 |
| S. 17 | @LOUISVILLE | |
| S. 24 | Arizona State | 14-27 |
| O. 1 | Washington State | 38-19 |
| O. 15 | @CALIFORNIA | 7-49 |
| O. 22 | @UCLA | |
| O. 29 | Arizona | 28-14 |
| N. 5 | @WASHINGTON | 29-14 |
| N. 12 | Stanford | 24-19 |
| N. 19 | @OREGON | 50-21 |

Head coach: Mike Riley,

5th Year (23-24)

Career Record: 23-24

Stadium: Reser Stadium

Turf: Artificial

Capacity: 43,000

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 15
Lettermen returning/lost: 42/19

OFFENSE

| | |
|----|--|
| QB | 8 Matt Moore (6-4, 180, Jr.) |
| TB | 26 Yvenson Bernard (5-9, 199, So.) |
| LT | 61 Adam Koets (6-6, 291, Jr.) |
| LG | 69 Josh Linehan (6-5, 295, Jr.) |
| C | 75 Kyle DeVan (6-2, 300, So.) |
| RG | 67 Roy Schuening (6-4, 317, So.) |
| RT | 72 Tavita Thompson (6-6, 299, r-Fr.) |
| TE | 89 Joe Newton (6-7, 254, Jr.) |
| SE | 28 Mike Hass (6-1, 209, Sr.) |
| SL | 16 Marcel Love (6-0, 184, Sr.) |
| FL | 17 Anthony Wheat-Brown (6-1, 214, So.) |

DEFENSE

| | |
|-----|-------------------------------------|
| LE | 27 Joe Lemma (6-3, 260, Jr.) |
| LT | 97 Ben Siegert (6-4, 275, Jr.) |
| RT | 92 Alvin Smith (6-2, 319, Sr.) |
| RE | 49 Jeff Van Orsow (6-4, 253, So.) |
| WLB | 21 Chaz Scott (6-2, 218, Sr.) |
| MLB | 44 Trent Bray (6-1, 229, Sr.) |
| SLB | 4 Keith Ellison (6-2, 223, Sr.) |
| LCB | 9 Gerard Lawson (5-11, 185, So.) |
| RCB | 34 Keenan Lewis (6-1, 186, r-Fr.) |
| FS | 7 Lamar Herron (6-0, 203, So.) |
| SS | 24 Sabby Piscitelli (6-3, 222, Jr.) |

SPECIALISTS

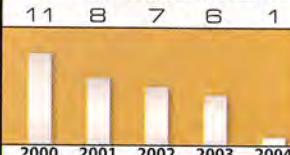
| | |
|----|---------------------------------|
| PK | 13 Alexis Serna (5-8, 157, So.) |
| P | 35 Sam Paulescu (6-0, 192, Sr.) |

WASHINGTON HUSKIES



2004 Record: 1-10 overall, 0-8 Pac-10
Official athletic Web site: www.gohuskies.com

FIVE-YEAR WINS TREND



2005 SCHEDULE

| DATE | OPPONENT | '04 RESULT |
|-------|------------------|------------|
| S. 3 | @AIR FORCE | |
| S. 10 | California | 12-42 |
| S. 17 | Idaho | |
| S. 24 | Notre Dame | 3-38 |
| O. 1 | @UCLA | 31-37 |
| O. 15 | @OREGON | 6-31 |
| O. 22 | USC | 0-38 |
| O. 29 | @ARIZONA STATE | |
| N. 5 | Oregon State | 14-29 |
| N. 12 | @ARIZONA | 13-23 |
| N. 19 | Washington State | 25-28 |

Head coach: Tyrone Willingham,
1st Year (0-0)

Career Record: 65-51-1

Stadium: Husky Stadium

Turf: Artificial

Capacity: 72,500

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 20
Lettermen returning/lost: 63/15

OFFENSE

| | |
|----|-----------------------------------|
| QB | 4 Isaiah Stanback (6-3, 205, Jr.) |
| FB | 22 James Sims Jr. (6-1, 205, Sr.) |
| TB | 8 Kenny James (5-10, 215, Jr.) |
| WT | 75 Chad Macklin (6-8, 205, So.) |
| WG | 63 Clay Walker (6-4, 300, Jr.) |
| C | 50 Brad Vanneman (6-3, 305, Sr.) |
| SG | 61 Tusi Sa'u (6-2, 320, Sr.) |
| ST | 68 Robin Meadow (6-6, 300, Sr.) |
| TE | 88 Robert Lewis (6-3, 225, So.) |
| WR | 3 Craig Chambers (6-3, 200, So.) |
| WR | 18 Corey Williams (6-2, 190, So.) |

DEFENSE

| | |
|-----|---|
| DE | 97 Mike Mapoulesga (6-3, 280, Sr.) |
| NT | 94 Jordan White-Frisbee (6-6, 330, So.) |
| DT | 56 Manase Hopoi (6-4, 285, Sr.) |
| DE | 7 Greyson Gunheim (6-4, 245, So.) |
| OLB | 27 Evan Benjamin (6-0, 215, Sr.) |
| ILB | 4 Scott White (6-1, 230, Jr.) |
| ILB | 53 Joe Lobendahn (5-10, 230, Sr.) |
| CB | 6 Matt Fountaine (5-11, 185, Jr.) |
| CB | 28 Roy Lewis (5-11, 185, So.) |
| FS | 0 Dashon Goldson (6-2, 195, Jr.) |
| SS | 1 C.J. Wallace (6-0, 205, Jr.) |

SPECIALISTS

| | |
|----|---------------------------------|
| PK | 10 Evan Knudson (6-0, 185, Sr.) |
| P | 17 Sean Douglas (6-1, 215, Jr.) |

So here he is, poised to rebuild another sagging program. Tyrone Willingham did it at Stanford and at Notre Dame, and now he's set to re-inflate Washington. But life in Seattle is not the same as life in South Bend, Ind.

For one thing, the coffee's better. For another, the traffic's worse. Oh, and there's one more significant difference: Willingham doesn't have nearly as much talent at his disposal this fall as he did during his rookie season at Notre Dame, when he turned the Irish into a national player and was the toast of college football.

That's not to say Willingham won't win in Seattle. He will. He just won't win big this season. The combination of 20 returning starters and Willingham's discipline-heavy style should get things stabilized immediately. That means three or four wins and a respectable showing most Saturdays.

"It is possible for me to expect them to be able to do everything in our system, but it is not realistic," Willingham says.

But there isn't enough elite talent for the Huskies to climb into the Pac-10's upper division. The talent pool has been ravaged by former coach Rick Neuheisel's poor recruiting decisions—he spent too much time pursuing elite players who were unlikely to sign with UW—and Keith Gilbertson's poor on-field performance. Remember the days when the Huskies' second-stringers were potential NFL draftees? Now most of the starters aren't even pro prospects, which explains Washington's 1-10 record in '04, its first losing season since 1976.

The Huskies had the worst offense and the worst defense in the league, and only a victory over lowly San Jose State kept them from going oh-fer.

Nowhere is the talent drop more evident than at quarterback, the position that doomed Washington last season. Casey Paus was terrible (5 touchdowns, 17 interceptions), and neither Isaiah Stanback nor Carl Bonnell were any better. They're all back this season, along with Oregon transfer Johnny DuRocher. Although Willingham did not name a starter during spring practice, the smart money is on Stanback, a junior who is a threat with his feet and arm. ☐

STANFORD

CARDINAL



04 Record: 4-7 overall, 2-6 Pac-10
Official athletic Web site: www.gostanford.com

Spring practice brought with it a major change at Stanford. OK, make that two major changes: optimism among the faithful and downfield completions on the practice field.

After three years of Buddy Euvens' unimaginative, sputtering offense, the school of John Elway and Jim Plunkett is once again a treat with its aerial attack.

The reason: the arrival of coach Valt Harris, a proven winner and developer of quarterbacks who has 10 returning starters on offense and a solid front-seven on defense.

Stanford, which was 4-7 last season, certainly has the potential to win six games. But the schedule is difficult: the Cardinal hosts many of the league's top teams and plays most of the middle-level teams on the road—a bad combination. It also missed Washington and plays Arizona on the road, meaning it could very well go winless against its fellow bottom-feeders.

To reach its first bowl game since December 2001, the Cardinal needs solid play from one of its quarterbacks: senior Trent Edwards or sophomore T.C. Ostrander, who was impressive late last season when Edwards was struggling and injured.

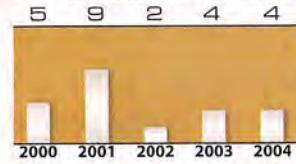
"We'll spread the field, use a mix of two backs, I-formation and multiple looks," Harris says. "It will be critical to our success that the quarterback operates in a high-percentage manner."

It won't be easy to replace tight end Alex Smith, but everyone else returns, including tailback J.R. Lemon and receivers Mark Bradford and Evan Moore, who combined for 73 catches last fall.

Defensively, the player to watch is outside linebacker Jon Alston—a second-team all-conference performer who had 10 sacks and forced three fumbles last season. Whether the linebacking unit is top-notch or merely solid depends on senior Michael Craven. A former megarecruit, Craven has struggled on the field and in the classroom. Will he finally play to his immense potential?

End Julian Jenkins and eclipse-causing nose tackle Babatunde Oshinowo form the core of a solid line, but the Cardinal must replace three starters in the secondary, starting with playmaking safety O.J. Atogwe, a third-round pick of the St. Louis Rams.

FIVE-YEAR WINS TREND



2005 SCHEDULE

| DATE | OPPONENT | '04 RESULT |
|-------|-------------------|------------|
| S. 10 | @NAVY | |
| S. 17 | California-Davis | |
| O. 1 | Oregon | 13-16 |
| O. 8 | @WASHINGTON STATE | 23-17 |
| O. 15 | @ARIZONA | |
| O. 22 | Arizona State | 31-34 |
| O. 29 | UCLA | 0-21 |
| N. 5 | @USC | 28-31 |
| N. 12 | @OREGON STATE | 19-24 |
| N. 19 | California | 6-41 |
| N. 26 | Notre Dame | 15-23 |

Head coach: Walt Harris,
1st Year (0-0)

Career Record: 63-68

Stadium: Stanford Stadium

Turf: Grass

Capacity: 85,500

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 17
 Lettermen returning/lost: 50/11

OFFENSE

| | | |
|-----------|----|--------------------------------|
| QB | 5 | Trent Edwards (6-4, 210, Sr.) |
| FB | 31 | Kris Bonifas (6-1, 235, Sr.) |
| RB | 9 | J.R. Lemon (6-1, 225, Sr.) |
| LT | 78 | Jon Cochran (6-6, 315, Sr.) |
| LG | 79 | Ismail Simpson (6-4, 290, Sr.) |
| C | 71 | Brian Head (6-4, 295, Sr.) |
| RG | 59 | Josiah Vinson (6-4, 310, Sr.) |
| RT | 70 | Jeff Edwards (6-7, 290, Sr.) |
| TE | 87 | Matt Traverso (6-5, 250, Sr.) |
| WR | 8 | Evan Moore (6-7, 235, Jr.) |
| WR | 4 | Mark Bradford (6-2, 190, Jr.) |

DEFENSE

| | | |
|------------|----|------------------------------------|
| DE | 94 | Julian Jenkins (6-4, 275, Sr.) |
| NT | 96 | Babatunde Oshinowo (6-2, 320, Sr.) |
| DE | 92 | Casey Carroll (6-2, 290, Sr.) |
| OLB | 37 | Jon Alston (6-1, 215, Sr.) |
| ILB | 47 | Kevin Schimmelmann (6-3, 228, Sr.) |
| ILB | 55 | Michael Okwo (6-0, 215, Jr.) |
| OLB | 56 | Tauatali Fonoti (6-2, 250, Sr.) |
| CB | 35 | T.J. Rushing (5-11, 175, Sr.) |
| CB | 25 | Calvin Armstrong (6-1, 195, Sr.) |
| FS | 24 | Trevor Hooper (6-1, 205, Sr.) |
| SS | 23 | Brandon Harrison (6-2, 205, Jr.) |

SPECIALISTS

| | | |
|-----------|----|--------------------------------|
| PK | 15 | Michael Sgroi (5-11, 200, Sr.) |
| P | 27 | Jay Ottovaggio (6-0, 190, Jr.) |

ARIZONA

WILDCATS



2004 Record: 3-8 overall, 2-6 Pac-10
Official athletic Web site: www.arizonaathletics.com

No fan base in the Pac-10 has higher expectations than USC's, and with good reason. But on a relative scale—the level of expectations compared to past performance and current talent—the folks in Tucson aren't far behind the Trojan faithful.

Despite winning just three games last season and returning only one all-league player—a second-team selection, at that—Arizona fans expect second-year coach Mike Stoops to have the Wildcats competing for a bowl berth.

"It's different this year," Stoops says. "The speed that our players are able to do things at, the confidence level. ... We feel like we have a much better plan. And our kids have made huge strides with their physical capabilities, and I think you will notice a different speed we are playing the game at."

A bowl bid isn't out of the question, but the 'Cats didn't get any breaks with the schedule. The non-conference slate includes Purdue and a trip to Utah, and once league play begins, Arizona probably will be favored in just two games: at home against Stanford and Washington.

What's more, the 'Cats have one of the least-talented amalgam of quarterbacks in a QB-dominated conference. Incumbent Richard Kovalcheck (six touchdowns and six interceptions last season) did not participate in spring practice because of offseason back surgery. Junior Adam Austin, a former walk-on, got most of the snaps and performed well enough to make Kovalcheck have to prove himself during training camp. Both veterans will be challenged by freshman Willie Tuitama.

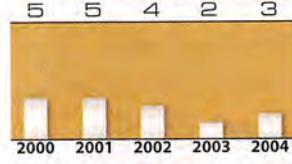
The Wildcats have two quality tailbacks in sophomore Chris Henry, nicknamed the Predator, and senior Mike Bell, who rushed for 950 yards last season.

And the receivers are solid, led by Anthony Johnson, Syndric Steptoe and Mike Jefferson, who caught two touchdowns in the upset of Arizona State last season.

What the defensive line lacks in proven playmakers, the secondary has. Darrell Brooks is an all-league safety, Lamon Means is a ferocious hitter and sophomore Antoine Cason might be the best young cornerback in the league.

The linebacking unit has several talented redshirt freshmen.

FIVE-YEAR WINS TREND



2005 SCHEDULE

| DATE | OPPONENT | '04 RESULT |
|-------|------------------|------------|
| S. 2 | @UTAH | 6-23 |
| S. 10 | Northern Arizona | 21-3 |
| S. 17 | Purdue | |
| O. 1 | @CALIFORNIA | 0-38 |
| O. 8 | @USC | 9-49 |
| O. 15 | Stanford | |
| O. 22 | Oregon | 14-28 |
| O. 29 | @OREGON STATE | 14-28 |
| N. 5 | UCLA | 17-37 |
| N. 12 | Washington | 23-13 |
| N. 25 | @ARIZONA STATE | 34-27 |

Head coach: Mike Stoops,
2nd Year (3-8)

Career Record: 3-8

Stadium: Arizona Stadium

Turf: Grass

Capacity: 56,000

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 17
 Lettermen returning/lost: 41/13

OFFENSE

| | | |
|-----------|----|------------------------------------|
| QB | 8 | Richard Kovalcheck (6-2, 211, So.) |
| FB | 48 | Pedro Limon (6-0, 244, Jr.) |
| RB | 11 | Mike Bell (6-1, 218, Sr.) |
| LT | 76 | Peter Graelio (6-7, 293, So.) |
| LG | 69 | John Abramo (6-4, 294, Sr.) |
| C | 66 | Kili Lefout (6-5, 315, Sr.) |
| RG | 75 | Joe Longacre (6-4, 310, r-Fr.) |
| RT | 72 | Tanner Bell (6-8, 300, Sr.) |
| TE | 87 | Brandyn McCall (6-5, 250, Jr.) |
| WR | 2 | B.J. Vickers (6-3, 215, Jr.) |
| WR | 1 | Syndric Steptoe (5-9, 170, Jr.) |

DEFENSE

| | | |
|-----------|----|---------------------------------|
| DE | 55 | Marcus Smith (6-5, 249, Sr.) |
| NT | 94 | Byron Smith (6-2, 295, Sr.) |
| DT | 56 | Paul Philipp (6-3, 278, Jr.) |
| DE | 49 | Copeland Bryan (6-4, 240, Sr.) |
| LB | 39 | Dane Krogstad (6-1, 226, Sr.) |
| LB | 33 | Ronnie Palmer (6-2, 217, r-Fr.) |
| LB | 32 | Randy Sims (5-11, 225, Sr.) |
| CB | 3 | Wilrey Fontenot (5-9, 170, So.) |
| CB | 5 | Antoine Cason (6-1, 180, So.) |
| FS | 6 | Darrell Brooks (6-1, 210, Sr.) |
| SS | 20 | Lamon Means (6-3, 232, Sr.) |

SPECIALISTS

| | | |
|-----------|----|---------------------------------|
| PK | 12 | Nick Folk (6-2, 206, Jr.) |
| P | 13 | Jason Bondzio (5-9, 170, r-Fr.) |

EAST



Games to watch:

>> Tennessee at Florida, Sept. 17

The luster is back on this annual grudge match; the winner will be hard to unseat as SEC East champion.

>> Tennessee at LSU, Sept. 24

The Vols will be either fighting for survival or cementing themselves as national players. Same for LSU after hosting Arizona State a week earlier.

>> Auburn at LSU, Oct. 22

Winner of this game has played for SEC title four of the last five years.

Official conference website:
www.secsports.com

**Street & Smith's
ALL-CONFERENCE**

Offense

| | |
|----|---------------------------------|
| QB | Chris Leak, Jr., Florida |
| RB | Jerious Norwood, Sr., Miss. St. |
| RB | Gerald Riggs, Jr., Tennessee |
| DL | Mike Degory, Sr., Florida |
| DL | Max Jean-Gilles, Sr., Georgia |
| DL | Marcus McNeill, Sr., Auburn |
| DL | Arron Sears, Jr., Tennessee |
| DL | Andrew Whitworth, Sr., LSU |
| TE | Leonard Pope, Jr., Georgia |
| WR | Chad Jackson, Jr., Florida |
| WR | Courtney Taylor, Jr., Auburn |
| PK | John Vaughn, Sr., Auburn |

Defense

| | |
|----|---------------------------------|
| DL | McKinley Boykin, Sr., Ole Miss |
| DL | Jesse Mahelona, Sr., Tenn. |
| DL | Tommy Jackson, Sr., Auburn |
| DL | Claude Wrotan, Sr., LSU |
| LB | Omar Gaither, Sr., Tennessee |
| LB | Brandon Siler, So., Florida |
| LB | Travis Williams, Sr., Auburn |
| DB | Jason Allen, Sr., Tennessee |
| DB | Roman Harper, Sr., Alabama |
| DB | LaRon Landry, Jr., LSU |
| DB | Ko Simpson, So., South Carolina |
| P | Eric Wilbur, Jr., Florida |



Chris Leak, Florida

High-profile new coaches provide SEC fans with yet another dazzling debate

By Scott Rabalais
The (Baton Rouge, La.) Advocate

Southeastern Conference football fans are competitive about everything. Who has the best team, the prettiest cheerleaders, the best fight song, the biggest stadium, the best tailgating.

This year, four SEC teams have one more thing to compete about:

Who has the best new coach?

A full one-third of the conference's prized coaching positions have changed hands with three new faces and one familiar one: Urban Meyer at Florida, Les Miles at LSU, Ed Orgeron at Ole Miss and Steve Spurrier at South Carolina.

So who is the best?

Well, Meyer has a reputation for quick fixes, something Florida needs. Miles became known for being a giant killer at Oklahoma State, the only coach yet to beat Oklahoma's Bob Stoops more than once. Orgeron is unsurpassed in enthusiasm, and has a couple of national championship rings on his hand from being an assistant at Southern California.

And Spurrier? Well, he was known as the evil genius during his decade at Florida, the SEC's best offensive mind, and there's little reason to think three seasons away from the conference have changed that.

While there may be a transfusion of new blood in the SEC, there is no reason to think the important things will change: that this will be

Rating the recruits

1. Tennessee

Philip Fulmer racked up a super national class, led by DBs Demetrice Morley and Adam Myers-White.

2. Georgia

Bulldogs restocked well, including the stud North Carolina pass-and-catch combo of Joe Cox and Mohamed Messequoi.

3. Florida

Gators recruited well under Ron Zook, same story with Urban Meyer.

4. Auburn

Not undefeated in recruiting, but won most of the battles that counted.

5. Alabama

Is the next great RB duo in Alabama going to be Mike Ford and Roy Upchurch?

6. LSU

Les Miles' first class short on numbers (13) but long on quality, led by QB Ryan Perrilloux.

7. South Carolina

Rescued class with three late decommitments in Jonathan Hennah, Carlos Thomas and Cade Thompson.

8. Arkansas

Quality at the top with RB Darren McFadden and DE Marcus Shevers.

9. Ole Miss

Got some big names but biggest, DT Jerrell Powe, not expected to qualify.

10. Mississippi State

Did well in-state, but closing the talent gap with the SEC's top teams still a challenge.

11. Kentucky

Signed Kentucky Mr. Football QB Curtis Pulley, but that's not like signing Kentucky's Mr. Basketball.

12. Vanderbilt

The Commodores' best signees, like QB Mackenzi Adams, would be middle-of-the-pack for the SEC's top schools.

the toughest conference, top to bottom, in the country every week.

Meyer expected nothing less when he left Utah and shunned Notre Dame to take the challenge of bringing Florida back to the top of the SEC heap.

"It's exactly what I thought," Meyer says. "The best conference in college football. The best players, the best coaching, the best passion."

The SEC has produced four national champions since going to divisional play in 1992—Alabama in 1993, Florida in 1996, Tennessee in 1998 and LSU in 2003. The conference has also had another school, Auburn, turn in a pair of perfect but national championship-less seasons.

The SEC offers three prime candidates for this season's BCS national championship game in the Rose Bowl: Tennessee (led not by a new man but by SEC dean of coaches Phillip Fulmer), LSU and Florida.

Then again, maybe it would be best if Auburn gets to smell the roses, having been the odd undefeated team out of last year's BCS title game in the Orange Bowl.

Perhaps that was another "best" for the SEC: Best reason yet for having a college football playoff.

Rating the players

| | |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------|
| Fastest receiver | Xavier Carter, LSU |
| Best hands | Glenn Holt, WR, Kentucky |
| Best passing QB | Chris Leak, Florida |
| Best option QB | Jay Cutler, Vanderbilt |
| Most elusive RB | Gerald Riggs, Tennessee |
| Best instincts | Ko Simpson, DB, South Carolina |
| Best athlete | Chad Jackson, WR, Florida |
| Best under pressure | Bradie Crayton, QB, Alabama |
| Top NFL prospect | Leonard Pope, GE, Georgia |
| Top impact freshman | Ryan Perrilloux, QB, LSU |
| Hardest hitter | Odell Thurman, LB, Georgia |
| Biggest underachiever | Lance Leary, LB, South Carolina |

Rating the coaches

| | |
|-------------------|--------------------------------|
| Best recruiter | Phillip Fulmer, Tennessee |
| Best strategist | Steve Spurrier, South Carolina |
| Coach on the spot | Houston Nutt, Arkansas |

Don't be surprised if ...

An SEC team once again gets into position to play for the BCS title—or at least argue that they should. Tennessee, LSU and Florida have the best chance.

One man's opinion

"If Mike Shula doesn't win a big game this year, the fans [at Alabama] will start to turn on him."

—an SEC assistant coach

FOOTBALL INVESTORS BOMBSHELL



MORE ABOUT KELSO STURGEON:

Author: The Complete Guide To Sports Betting" (Harper & Row)
Authored over 1,000 articles on handicapping seen in College & Pro Football Newsweekly, Sportsform.

Seen on TV's Pro Line (USA Cable Network)

Profiled in: Wall Street Journal, NY Times, Chicago Tribune, Washington Post and Playboy.

Creator of the famous "World Series of Handicapping"

Only sports handicapper to ever address the United States Congress on the subject of sports handicapping.

Just Check Out A Partial List Of My Top Plays From Last Year's Record

| | |
|--------------------------|---------|
| Steelers (-3½) Texans | 38-3 W |
| Lions (+1) Bears | 20-16 W |
| Ravens(-3½) Steelers | 30-13 W |
| Louisville(-10) Kentucky | 28-0 W |
| Purdue (-12½) Syracuse | 51-0 W |
| Fresno St(-1½) Wash | 35-16 W |
| Arizona St (-3) Iowa | 44-7 W |
| N Dame (-10½) Wash | 38-3 W |
| So Miss (-14) Tulane | 32-14 W |
| Purdue (-2½) N Dame | 41-16 W |
| VA Tech (+16) USC | 13-24 W |
| Memphis (+6) Miss | 20-13 W |
| Troy St(+15) Marshall | 17-15 W |
| Fresno St(+12) Kan. St | 45-21 W |
| N Dame (+10½) Mich. | 28-20 W |
| Oregon (+28) Okla. | 7-31 W |
| BYU (+21) Boise St | 27-28 W |
| NC St (+7) VA Tech | 17-16 W |
| Michigan (+7½) Texas | 37-38 W |
| Eagles (-6) Falcons | 27-10 W |
| Pats (-3) Steelers | 41-27 W |
| Eagles (+7) Patriots | 21-24 W |
| Eagles-Patriots 146½ | 21-24 W |

Kelso Sturgeon has beaten the Dow Jones 37 years in a row. Won't you give him 1 year to get the money for you?

A longtime customer did a study of my past performances and found out that my Big Play games earned more dollars than any of the stock averages Wall Street goes by.

■ I beat the
Dow Jones.

■ I beat the
Standard & Poors.

■ I beat the Lipper Analytical
and the Willshire Index.

And that's only the quick bird's eye view

Members of my Chairman's Club who followed my betting guidelines over the last four seasons have pocketed over \$400,000 in net cash earnings. Hundreds of my smaller players have seen their football earnings rise proportionately! If you want to multiply your money **I CAN GIVE YOU THE RATE OF CLIMB YOU WANT BECAUSE I HAVE THE GAMES YOU NEED!**

Football is my turf. As a former scout in the SEC under Bear Bryant and the AFC under Hank Stram, I learned the fundamentals of who can beat who and my early training has never stopped paying off. My 37 year record of success may be the longest in the business – and I'm inviting YOU to cash in on it.

SIGN UP TODAY FOR MY BEST BETS PACKAGE AND GET THE SAME GAMES THAT GOT ALL THE MONEY LAST YEAR!

Rated

66% The Entire NFL Pre-Season,
Plus My NFL Pre-Season
Game Of The Year.

68% All My Best Bet Club NFL Plays
For The Entire Season.

65% All My Best Bet Club College Plays
For The Entire Season.

Rated

90% My 50-Unit AFC Game
Of The Year.

80% My 50-Unit NFC Game
Of The Year.

100% My 100-Unit
Rated NFL Game
Of The Year.

Rated

95% My 100-Unit Rated College
Football Game Of The Year.

72% The First 3 NFL Las Vegas
Steam Games Of The Season.

68% The First 3 College Football
Las Vegas Steam Games
Of The Season.

MY SPECIAL EARLY BIRD FEE FOR ALL THIS WINNING IS ONLY \$199

a savings of \$150 over my regular season fee of \$349 AND it includes:



A Copy Of My New
Football Handicapping Book,
"The 80-Percent Formula,"
winning with circumstances and situations,
schedule dynamics, emotional factors, more...



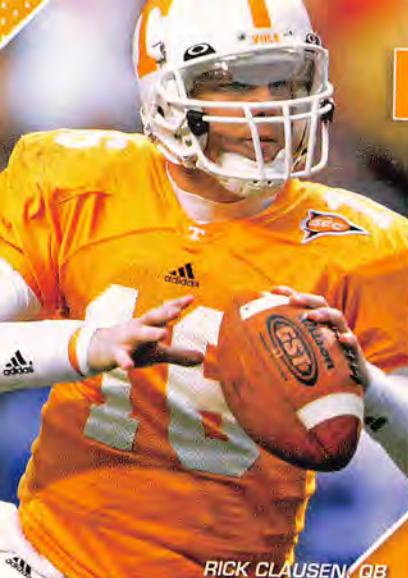
plus A free season subscription to the
Kelso Sturgeon Football Forecast,
featuring * my College and NFL Power Ratings
* advance Best Bets with detailed analysis
* review of current betting trends, angles & Systems

**I AM HAVING THE SUCCESS OF MY LIFE. I'M NOT ONLY BEATING LAS VEGAS AND THE OFFSHORES,
BUT WALL STREET. HOW CAN YOU TOP THAT? YOU CAN'T. SO WHY NOT JOIN ME!
LET ME PUT YOU ON THE UPWARD PATH TO THE MONEY YOU ALWAYS DREAMED OF**

Call Today 1-800-755-2255

Or sign up online at www.kelosturgeon.com

All Correspondence To:
Kelso Sturgeon, #206, 3315 Russell Rd
Las Vegas, NV 89120-3477



RICK CLAUSEN, QB

TENNESSEE

VOLUNTEERS

2004 Record: 10-3 overall, 7-1 SEC (beat Texas A&M in the Cotton Bowl, 38-7)

Stadium: Neyland Stadium

Official athletic Web site: www.utsports.com

Turf: Grass

Capacity: 104,079

PRESEASON RANK:

FIVE-YEAR WINS TREND

1

8 11 8 10 10

2000 2001 2002 2003 2004

Head coach: Phillip Fulmer, 14th Year (123-31) Career Record: 123-31

Assistant coaches: John Chavis (assst. head coach/def. coord./LBs), Randy Sanders (off. coord./QBs), Greg Adkins (TEs/off. line/recruiting coord.), Dan Brooks (def. line), Steve Caldwell (def. ends), Larry Slade (def. backs), Jimmy Ray Stephens (off. line), Trooper Taylor (RBs), Pat Washington (WRs)



2005 SCHEDULE

| DATE | OPPONENT | '04 RESULT |
|-------|----------------|------------|
| S. 3 | UAB | |
| S. 17 | @FLORIDA | 30-28 |
| S. 24 | @LSU | |
| O. 1 | Mississippi | 21-17 |
| O. 8 | Georgia | 19-14 |
| O. 22 | @ALABAMA | 17-13 |
| O. 29 | South Carolina | 43-29 |
| N. 5 | @NOTRE DAME | 13-17 |
| N. 12 | Memphis | |
| N. 19 | Vanderbilt | 38-33 |
| N. 26 | @KENTUCKY | 37-31 |

PROJECTED STARTERS

| |
|--|
| Starters returning: 16 |
| Lettermen returning/lost: 52/21 |
| OFFENSE |
| QB 16 Rick Clausen (6-3, 198, Sr.) |
| FB 45 Cory Anderson (6-3, 275, Jr.) |
| TB 21 Gerald Riggs Jr. (6-0, 217, Sr.) |
| LT 76 Arron Sears (6-4, 330, Jr.) |
| LG 52 Rob Smith (6-4, 306, Jr.) |
| C 66 David Ligon (6-5, 300, Jr.) |
| RG 70 Cody Douglas (6-4, 330, Sr.) |
| RT 72 Albert Toaeina (6-6, 355, Sr.) |
| TE 28 Chris Brown (6-3, 239, So.) |
| WR 3 Robert Meachem (6-3, 218, So.) |
| WR 17 C.J. Fayton (6-2, 205, Sr.) |
| DEFENSE |
| LE 98 Parys Haralson (6-2, 248, Sr.) |
| LT 92 Justin Harrell (6-4, 306, Jr.) |
| RT 55 Jesse Mahelona (6-2, 297, Sr.) |
| RE 94 Jason Hall (6-3, 260, Sr.) |
| WLB 35 Jason Mitchell (6-1, 227, Sr.) |
| MLB 2 Kevin Simon (5-11, 234, Sr.) |
| SLB 44 Omar Gaither (6-2, 230, Sr.) |
| LCB 18 Jason Allen (6-2, 202, Sr.) |
| RCB 36 Roshaun Fellows (6-0, 184, So.) |
| FS 33 Jonathan Hefney (5-10, 174, So.) |
| SS 24 Antwan Stewart (6-0, 193, Jr.) |
| SPECIALISTS |
| PK 25 James Wilhoit (5-10, 198, Jr.) |
| P 47 Britton Colquitt (6-3, 198, Fr.) |

RATING THE RECRUITS

- Demetrice Morley, DB
A five-star blue-chipper who could play early.
- Adam Myers-White, FS
One of the top free safeties in the country.
- Josh McNeil, C
No pressure, Josh, but they may need you now.
- LaMarcus Coker, RB
Tennessee coaches are high on his ability.
- Jonathan Crompton, QB
A highly rated pro-style quarterback from N.C.

After 10-win season filled with injuries, '05 ought to be piece of cake for loaded Vols

Teams, coaches and players have come and gone in the Southeastern Conference the last 13 years, reaching the heights then falling back to the pack.

Only one SEC team, Tennessee, has been the model of consistency. Only one team, the Volunteers, has won at least eight games every season since the conference went to divisional play in 1992. And a couple of SEC titles and a national championship, too.

This season, the Volunteers are expected to do nothing less than contend for all the honors. After all, if Tennessee could weather the injuries and problems it did in 2004 and still reach the SEC Championship Game and still go 10-3 with a 38-7 throttling of Texas A&M in the Cotton Bowl, why not dream big?

For Tennessee coach Phillip Fulmer, who took over from Johnny Majors during that 1992 season and has become the dean of SEC coaches, the mantle of great expectations are as familiar as the orange shirt he wears each Saturday in the fall.

"I don't feel any more pressure than anyone else does," says Fulmer, 123-31 as coach of his alma mater. "At our place you're expected to win and win a lot. That's OK. That's where we are with what we've created. I don't mind at all."

What Fulmer minds are the off-the-field incidents, which have been plentiful for the Vols this offseason.

Quarterback Brent Schaeffer was suspended from the team, then later decided to transfer. Wide receiver Bret Smith and defensive end Robert Ayres were also suspended. Defensive tackle Tori McDaniel's future with the team was also shaky as spring turned into summer.

The problems focused a light on the one thing that could undo the Vols' championship hopes: themselves. Chemistry, intangibles, equilibrium, all could be upset by too many distractions.

For now, though, in terms of pure talent and experience, the Volunteers are the team to beat. Of the 22 offensive and defensive starters in the Cotton Bowl, 16 return, seven on offense and eight on defense.

It is defense that will lead the Vols to the Rocky Top if they are to get there. The defense certainly

showed the offense who was boss in spring practice, not giving up a single point to the No. 1 offense in live action.

By far the best news Fulmer got during the offseason was defensive end Parys Haralson's decision to return for his senior season. Haralson tormented opposing quarterbacks last year with seven sacks and 21 hurries, both team highs. Senior Jason Hall (27 tackles) is Haralson's opposite number at the other end spot.

Hawaiian tough guy Jesse Mahelona is back at defensive tackle after an All-America junior season. Mahelona had 42 stops in 2004, including a team-best 18 tackles for loss, and even played through a sprained medial collateral ligament against Alabama.

With McDaniels' status in doubt, the Volunteers may have to depend on incoming freshman Demonte Bolden, who enrolled in January after leaving prep school, at the other tackle slot.

The only loss among last year's defensive starters, All-America outside linebacker Kevin Burnett, prompted some shifting throughout the linebacker corps. Senior Jason Mitchell shifts from middle linebacker to Burnett's weakside spot. Senior Kevin Simon, who played in the middle until tearing his anterior cruciate ligament, returns there, while senior Omar Gaither is on the strongside.

If there is a weak link, it is the secondary. The return of senior Jason Allen helped. He reportedly wanted to go pro but was lured back to Knoxville with the promise he could switch from free safety to cornerback. Sophomore Roshaun Fellows is at the other corner.

With Allen's move, both safety spots are huge question marks. Sophomore Jonathan Hefney, listed at 5-10 but at least an inch shorter, is an undersized free safety. Strong safety is a mess. Sophomore Antwan Stewart is penciled in there now, but he was limited in the spring from a torn ACL suffered last spring. Defensive coordinator John Chavis' last word from spring practice was that aside from Allen, no defensive back's position was safe.

The starting quarterback spot also must be sorted out. Though Schaeffer is gone, former starter Erik Ainge, a sophomore, is back from the shoulder injury that paved the way for senior Rick Clausen to start the last four games. Neither was able to pull in front before the spring ended. Ainge completed 109 of 198 passes for 1,452 yards and

7 touchdowns, while Clausen completed 81 of 136 attempts for 949 yards and eight scores.

The starting tailback, senior Gerald Riggs Jr., isn't hard to identify after rushing for 1,107 yards and six TDs last year, completing a 1,000-yard backfield duo with the departed Cedric Houston (1,005 yards). Finding a backup for Riggs proved elusive, as neither redshirt freshmen Arian Foster nor JaKouri Williams distinguished themselves. Junior Cory Anderson is a dependable fullback.

Tennessee is once again Wide Receiver U, with the likes of sophomore Robert Meachem (459 yards receiving, 4 TDs), senior C.J. Fayton (379 yards, 3 TDs) and Smith (291 yards, team-high 5 TDs). Tight end is a puzzle, however, as only sophomore Chris Brown made it through healthy.

The center spot must also be sorted out as senior Richie Gandy tore his ACL playing basketball during the winter. He promised to be back for two-a-days, but junior David Ligon played in his place during the spring. Junior Arron Sears flirted with the NFL draft but came back, and will line up alongside junior Rob Smith. Senior Cody Douglas is at right guard while senior Albert Toeaina is at right tackle.

If winning is a tradition for Tennessee, so is having a Colquitt handle the Volunteers' punting. Redshirt freshman Britton Colquitt takes over from older brother Dustin, who was the Vols' punter the last four seasons and yes, Britton is a very good punter. He and Dustin are part of the long orange line of punting Colquitts that began with their dad Craig (1975-77) and included Craig's cousin Jimmy (1981-84).

IN PROFILE ... KEVIN SIMON

Hard-luck Vols linebacker eager to stay on field for senior season

If anyone is due for a break (no pun intended), it's Tennessee linebacker Kevin Simon.

One of the best linebackers in the nation because of his ability to fly to the ball, Simon is projected as either the middle or weakside 'backer for the Volunteers—that is, if he can avoid the injuries that seem to follow him wherever the 5-11, 230-pound senior goes.

It all started during Simon's senior year at prep powerhouse De La Salle in California, where he was an All-America linebacker and also the team's running back his senior year. Later that year in a high school all-star game, Simon tore his right ACL, just months before he was to report to Tennessee.

Simon redshirted his first year in order to rehab the knee, then came back in 2002 and made an immediate impact, starting three of the Volunteers' first four games. But Simon suffered a broken ankle during that fourth game, essentially shutting down his sophomore season. Again Simon had to go through rehab, plus he had arthroscopic surgery on his knee in the offseason.

Finally, Simon was able to enjoy an injury-free season, showing what he could do when given an opportunity. In 2003, he started all 13 games, recording team highs in both tackles (115) and sacks (4.5), while also adding his first career

While Tennessee fans will probably rest easy in the knowledge that another Colquitt foot is on the job, the placekicker position is a different story. Junior kicker James Wilhoit, who made 10 of 17 field goals and 44 of 45 extra points last season, underwent surgery on his foot during the spring. That left most of the duties to senior Ryan Fusco, who struggled during spring practice. If both falter, Britton Colquitt (big surprise) can also place kick.

Tennessee schedules typically start tough and taper off through November, but this year's slate adds a couple of extra degrees of difficulty.

After a Sept. 3 home opener with UAB, the Volunteers face a pair of make-or-break road games at Florida on Sept. 17 and Sept. 24 at LSU. The Vols come home to play Georgia on Oct. 8 then head to Alabama on Oct. 22. Crimson Tide fans are sure to be lying in wait for Fulmer, who testified against Alabama in the NCAA investigation that landed the 'Bama football program on probation several years ago.

After a visit from Fulmer's old nemesis, Steve Spurrier, and his new South Carolina team on Oct. 29, the Vols head to South Bend for a rematch with the Notre Dame team that won 17-13 in Knoxville last season.

If the Vols can get past the Florida-LSU double whammy with an undefeated record still intact, their championship hopes will be riding high.

If Tennessee is 1-2 heading into October, there will be way too many games left to enjoy just playing out the string. ■

interception. It was enough for him to be named an Associated Press second-team All-SEC pick at linebacker.

But just when things were looking up, they quickly took a turn for the worst last season. In the second game of the season against rival Florida, Simon tore his ACL—this time on the left knee.

If you're keeping score at home, that's torn ACLs on both knees, a broken ankle and countless hours spent rehabbing those injuries—all in the last five years. An appeal has been made by Vols coach Phillip Fulmer to grant Simon an extra year of eligibility due to the ailments.

Once again, Simon has healed from another injury. He participated in workouts this spring, but was wisely held out of any contact drills. If he can avoid injury, the addition of Simon will give Tennessee a strong linebacker trio that already includes All-SEC performer Omar Gaither and senior Jason Mitchell.

During his spring press conference, Fulmer was optimistic about his defense as a whole, which can only get better if the Vols have a healthy Simon all season.

"We started the season with the youngest defensive front in the conference by far, lost Kevin Simon and yet they held it together and did a super job," Fulmer said. "I am excited about our defensive front as to what we have now, and what we can be as we continue to develop."

—Matt McKenzie

2004 TEAM STATS

| TEAM STATISTICS | UT | OPP |
|----------------------|------------|------------|
| SCORING | 378 | 295 |
| Points Per Game | 29.1 | 22.7 |
| FIRST DOWNS | 276 | 255 |
| Rushing | 119 | 96 |
| Passing | 134 | 134 |
| Penalty | 23 | 25 |
| RUSHING YARDAGE | 2418 | 1560 |
| Yards gained rushing | 2667 | 2006 |
| Yards lost rushing | 249 | 446 |
| Rushing Attempts | 520 | 451 |
| Average Per Rush | 4.7 | 3.5 |
| Average Per Game | 186.0 | 120.0 |
| TDs Rushing | 21 | 15 |
| PASSING YARDAGE | 2775 | 3073 |
| Att-Cmp-Int | 376-210-15 | 418-254-16 |
| Average Per Pass | 7.4 | 7.4 |
| Average Per Catch | 13.2 | 12.1 |
| Average Per Game | 213.5 | 236.4 |
| TDs Passing | 27 | 19 |
| TOTAL OFFENSE | 5193 | 4633 |
| Total Plays | 896 | 869 |
| Average Per Play | 5.8 | 5.3 |
| Average Per Game | 399.5 | 356.4 |
| KICK RETURNS: #-YDS | 28-511 | 42-767 |
| PUNT RETURNS: #-YDS | 33-200 | 24-88 |
| INT RETURNS: #-YDS | 16-71 | 15-103 |
| KICK RETURN AVERAGE | 18.2 | 18.3 |
| PUNT RETURN AVERAGE | 6.1 | 3.7 |
| INT RETURN AVERAGE | 4.4 | 6.9 |
| FUMBLES-LOST | 13-7 | 25-12 |
| PENALTIES-YARDS | 85-732 | 92-679 |
| Average Per Game | 56.3 | 52.2 |
| PUNTS-YARDS | 59-2387 | 71-2939 |
| Average Per Punt | 40.5 | 41.4 |
| Net punt average | 39.0 | 38.6 |
| TIME OF POSS./GAME | 30:12 | 29:35 |
| 3RD-DOWN CONV. | 77/178 | 68/177 |
| 3rd-Down Pct | 43% | 38% |
| 4TH-DOWN CONV. | 6/11 | 6/13 |
| 4th-Down Pct | 55% | 46% |
| SACKS BY-YARDS | 33-232 | 17-105 |
| MISC YARDS | 18 | 0 |
| TOUCHDOWNS SCORED | 50 | 37 |
| FIELD GOALS-ATTEMPTS | 10-17 | 12-17 |
| PAT-ATTEMPTS | 44-46 | 33-35 |
| ATTENDANCE | 746507 | 268486 |
| Games/Avg Per Game | 7/106644 | 4/67122 |
| Neutral Site Games | | 2/75298 |

| SCORE BY QTRS | 1st | 2nd | 3rd | 4th | OT | Total |
|---------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|-------|
| Tennessee | 107 | 103 | 75 | 93 | — | 378 |
| Opponent | 87 | 86 | 34 | 88 | — | 295 |

2004 INDIVIDUAL STATS OFFENSE

PASSING

| Erik Ainge | GP | Effic. | Att-Cmp-Int | Pct. | Yds. | TD | Avg/G |
|------------|--------|-----------|-------------|------|------|-------|-------|
| 9 | 135.89 | 198-109-9 | 55.1 | 1452 | 17 | 161.3 | |

| Rick Clausen | GP | Effic. | Att-Cmp-Int | Pct. | Yds. | TD | Avg/G |
|--------------|--------|----------|-------------|------|------|-------|-------|
| 7 | 130.23 | 136-81-5 | 59.6 | 949 | 8 | 135.6 | |

| Brent Schaeffer | GP | Effic. | Att-Cmp-Int | Pct. | Yds. | TD | Avg/G |
|-----------------|--------|---------|-------------|------|------|------|-------|
| 8 | 129.64 | 37-18-1 | 48.6 | 302 | 2 | 37.8 | |

RUSHING

| Gerald Riggs | GP | Att. | Net Avg. | TD | Avg/G |
|--------------|-----|------|----------|----|-------|
| 13 | 193 | 1107 | 5.7 | 6 | 85.2 |

| Cedric Houston | GP | Att. | Net Avg. | TD | Avg/G |
|----------------|-----|------|----------|----|-------|
| 13 | 181 | 1005 | 5.6 | 8 | 77.3 |

| David Yancey | GP | Att. | Net Avg. | TD | Avg/G |
|--------------|----|------|----------|----|-------|
| 7 | 24 | 116 | 4.8 | 1 | 16.6 |

RECEIVING

| Tony Brown | GP | No. | Yds. | Avg. | TD | Avg/G |
|------------|----|-----|------|------|------|-------|
| 13 | 31 | 388 | 12.5 | 3 | 29.8 | |

| Jayson Swain | GP | No. | Yds. | Avg. | TD | Avg/G |
|--------------|----|-----|------|------|------|-------|
| 13 | 29 | 388 | 13.4 | 4 | 29.8 | |

| Robert Meachem | GP | No. | Yds. | Avg. | TD | Avg/G |
|----------------|----|-----|------|------|------|-------|
| 13 | 25 | 459 | 18.4 | 4 | 35.3 | |

DEFENSE

| TACKLES | GP | Solo | Ast. | Total |
|---------------|----|------|------|-------|
| Jason Allen | 13 | 88 | 35 | 123 |
| Kevin Burnett | 13 | 90 | 30 | 120 |
| Omar Gaither | 13 | 72 | 20 | 92 |

SACKS

| Parry Haralson | GP | No. | Yds. |
|----------------|----|-----|------|
| 13 | 13 | 7.0 | 36 |

| Jesse Mahelona | GP | No. | Yds. |
|----------------|----|-----|------|
| 13 | 13 | 5.0 | 52 |

| Karlton Neal | GP | No. | Yds. |
|--------------|----|-----|------|
| 12 | 12 | 3.0 | 27 |

INTERCEPTIONS

| Corey Campbell | GP | No. | Yds. | Avg. | TD |
|----------------|----|-----|------|------|----|
| 4 | 4 | 1 | 0.2 | 0 | 0 |

| Roshaun Fellows | GP | No. | Yds. | Avg. | TD |
|-----------------|----|-----|------|------|----|
| 3 | 3 | 8 | 2.7 | 0 | 0 |

| Jason Allen | GP | No. | Yds. | Avg. | TD |
|-------------|----|-----|------|------|----|
| 2 | 2 | 4 | 2.0 | 0 | 0 |



CHRIS LEAK, QB



FLORIDA

GATORS

2004 Record: 7-5 overall, 4-4 SEC (lost to Miami in the Peach Bowl, 27-10)
 Stadium: Ben Hill Griffin Stadium
 Official athletic Web site: www.gatorzone.com

Turf: Grass

Capacity: 88,548

PRESEASON RANK:

FIVE-YEAR WINS TREND

2

| | | | | |
|------|------|------|------|------|
| 10 | 10 | 8 | 8 | 7 |
| 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 |

Head coach: Urban Meyer, 1st Year (0-0) Career Record: 39-8
 Assistant coaches: Steve Addazio (TEs), Stan Drayton (RBs), Billy Gonzales (WRs), Chuck Heater (recruiting coord./secondary), John Hevesy (off. line), John "Doc" Holliday (safeties), Greg Mattison (co-def. coord./def. line), Dan Mullen (off. coord./QBs), Charlie Strong (asst. head coach/co-def. coord./LBs)



2005 SCHEDULE

| DATE | OPPONENT | '04 RESULT |
|-------|-------------------|------------|
| S. 3 | Wyoming | |
| S. 10 | Louisiana Tech | |
| S. 17 | Tennessee | 28-30 |
| S. 24 | @KENTUCKY | 20-3 |
| O. 1 | @ALABAMA | |
| O. 8 | Mississippi State | 31-38 |
| O. 15 | @LSU | 21-24 |
| O. 29 | Georgia | 24-31 |
| N. 5 | Vanderbilt | 34-17 |
| N. 12 | @SOUTH CAROLINA | 48-14 |
| N. 26 | Florida State | 20-13 |

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 13
 Lettermen returning/lost: 47/20

OFFENSE

| | |
|----|---------------------------------------|
| QB | 12 Chris Leak (6-0, 195, Jr.) |
| RB | 25 Skyler Thornton (5-11, 210, Jr.) |
| LT | 72 Lance Butler (6-7, 298, Sr.) |
| LG | 76 Tavares Washington (6-3, 307, Sr.) |
| C | 68 Mike Degory (6-6, 306, Sr.) |
| RG | 63 Jim Tarrt (6-3, 305, r-Fr.) |
| RT | 74 Randy Hand (6-6, 305, Sr.) |
| TE | 89 Markell Thompson (6-6, 265, Sr.) |
| WR | 8 Chad Jackson (6-1, 202, Jr.) |
| WR | 5 Andre Caldwell (6-1, 195, Jr.) |
| WR | 81 Dallas Baker (6-3, 205, Sr.) |

DEFENSE

| | |
|----|------------------------------------|
| DE | 57 Jeremy Mincey (6-4, 258, So.) |
| DT | 44 Marcus Thomas (6-3, 290, Jr.) |
| DT | 95 Ray McDonald (6-3, 285, Jr.) |
| DE | 20 Joe Cohen (6-2, 270, Jr.) |
| LB | 30 Earl Everett (6-2, 224, Jr.) |
| LB | 40 Brandon Siler (6-2, 230, So.) |
| LB | 42 Billy Latsko (5-10, 230, Jr.) |
| CB | 15 Dee Webb (5-11, 190, Jr.) |
| CB | 16 Vernell Brown (5-8, 165, Sr.) |
| FS | 46 Jarvis Herring (5-11, 201, Sr.) |
| SS | 3 Kyle Jackson (6-0, 191, So.) |

SPECIALISTS

| | |
|----|--------------------------------------|
| PK | 21 Jonathan Phillips (6-0, 195, Fr.) |
| P | 10 Eric Wilbur (6-2, 192, Jr.) |

RATING THE RECRUTS

1. Avery Atkins, CB
A top-100 prospect who could step in right away.
2. Jon Demps, LB
Had 160 tackles, 6 sacks, 5 forced fumbles as a sr.
3. Kalvin Baker, LB
As a junior, led all Ga. prep players with 29 sacks.
4. Darrell Gresham Jr., LB
Rated as one of the nation's 10 best LB prospects.
5. David Nelson, WR
Tall and swift; had 91 catches and 18 TDs in 2004.

Urban renewal project provides hope for Gator revival, but will it spring a Leak?

The SEC-leading 58,500 fans who showed up for Florida's spring game in April was an indication of:

- How much confidence Gator fans have that new coach Urban Meyer will quickly lead Florida back to the top.
- A Gator Nation thirsty for wins after three un-Florida-like years under former coach Ron Zook.
- A little of both.

There are two reasons to think that Meyer will win and win quickly at Florida: Bowling Green and Utah.

Meyer has become known as the king of the quick fix in college football. His first Bowling Green team in 2001 went 8-3 after a 2-9 record in 2001, the biggest turnaround in college football that year. His second squad went 9-3 before Meyer winged west to Salt Lake City.

At Utah, he led the Utes to a 10-2 mark in 2003, a 12-0 record last year and berth in the Fiesta Bowl opposite Pittsburgh, a first for a team from a non-BCS conference.

Now, Florida fans hope Meyer can do for the Gators what Steve Spurrier did a decade and a half ago: turn Florida into a football superpower.

Meyer isn't completely the second coming of Steve, however. Spurrier is folksy, with his country boy veneer hiding a jewel thief persona, and delights as much in jabbing an opponent with a needle as completing another long touchdown pass on them.

Meyer comes off as much more polished, serious, and, well, Urbane than Spurrier. It's hard to imagine Meyer poking fun at an opponent, saying you can't spell Peach Bowl without the "E" and the "A" from Georgia or something like that.

Oh, that's right. The Peach Bowl is where Florida was last seen, getting pitted by despised downstate rival Miami 27-10 to finish 7-5.

No, instead of Spurrier-like quipping, Meyer set a respectful tone as he prepared to enter his first



URBAN MEYER

season in the ultra-competitive SEC.

"At other places a lot of players come for the free education," he says. "They come to school in the SEC because they want to compete at the highest level."

The chance to compete—and win—at Florida led Meyer to move to Gainesville though he was also strongly courted by Notre Dame, his one-time "dream job."

But in the case of Meyer's ultimate career move, dreams were trumped by reality. The reality of having the kind of talent on hand to work another of his patented quick turnarounds.

"The opportunity to compete at the highest level was attractive to us," Meyer says of himself and his family.

While the Fun 'n' Gun offense was the staple of the Spurrier era, the less colorfully named but equally effective spread option will be the hallmark of the Meyer regime. The offense calls for some option, lots of reverses and also lots of vertical passes, pressuring the defense at multiple points.

The offense helped Utah quarterback Alex Smith become the No. 1 NFL draft pick in April, but at the same time Florida junior quarterback Chris Leak was having his doubts that he could master the system. Eventually Leak came around, making hopes that he can better last year's marks of 3,197 yards and 29 touchdowns passing a possibility.

Backup quarterback Gavin Dickey split his spring between football and baseball. In the fall he could be splitting his time between quarterback and receiver.

Not that the Gators are hurting for receivers. Andre Caldwell (16.0 yards per catch, 3 TDs), Chad Jackson (22.3, 6) and Dallas Baker (15.8, 5) all return. In fact, though Dickey may catch some passes, Reggie Lewis was shipped out to cornerback, where he will battle Vernell Brown for the starting spot opposite Demetrice Webb.

The Gators possess three solid running backs, though none emerged as the clear successor to Ciatrick Faison in the spring. Skyler Thornton



(230 yards rushing, 1 TD) is the top returning ground gainer and had a solid spring. But Deshawn Wynn (217 yards, 5 TDs) and newcomer Markus Manson will also get their carries.

The starting offensive line is solid, led by senior center Mike Degory, who Meyer once tried to recruit when he was an assistant at Notre Dame. The depth is shallow, however. Lance Butler and Randy Hand return at the tackles, while Tavares Washington moved from tackle to guard. Redshirt freshman Jim Tartt was a surprise of the spring, nailing down the starting job at right guard.

The entire starting defensive line returns, with Jeremy Mincey and Joe Cohen at ends and Marcus Thomas and Ray McDonald at tackles. Thomas missed the entire spring with a back injury but is expected to be fine, while Cohen spent the offseason recovering from hip surgery.

Florida had just two dependable linebackers when spring practice began. But Meyer's offense employs no fullbacks. Presto chango and—voila!—Billy Latsko and Eric Rutledge are now linebackers. Latsko actually had a strong spring and may get to play a lot this fall. Brandon Siler moves from an outside linebacker spot to replace Channing Crowder at middle linebacker.

Although cornerback is a concern with Brown and Lewis trying to distinguish themselves at one spot, the safeties are solid. Kyle Jackson started as a true freshman at strong safety last year and returns to that spot this season. Jarvis Herring, a senior, had a great spring, according to his coaches and will start at free safety.

Eric Wilbur returns to punt for the Gators after averaging 42.3 yards per kick in 2004, good for third best in the SEC, with 11 punts traveling 50 yards or more. More importantly, Wilbur pinned opponents inside their own 20 11 times.

Meyer has to wish his placekicking situation was

as settled. In fact, the coach with the penchant for going for it on fourth down hinted in the spring that he may be doing a lot of that in the fall.

Three walk-on kickers are on the Florida roster—Brandon Abbaspour, Chris Hetland and Eric Nappy—but none showed in the spring that they are capable of adequately filling the cleats of the departed Matt Leach. Anxious eyes will be on the foot of incoming freshman Jonathan Phillips this fall.

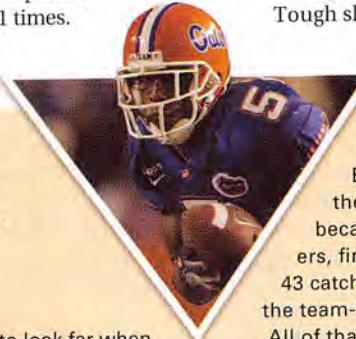
The Gators return their top return men—Caldwell on kickoffs, Vernell Brown on punts.

The only coach Meyer retained from Zook's staff was Charlie Strong, who served as Florida's interim head coach during the Peach Bowl. Strong was defensive coordinator and defensive ends coach last season but now will coach linebackers and share defensive coordinator duties with Greg Mattison, who comes from Notre Dame. Mattison will also coach the defensive line.

Four coaches followed Meyer from Utah: Billy Gonzales (wide receivers), Chuck Heater (recruiting, secondary), John Hevesey (offensive line) and Dan Mullen (offensive coordinator, quarterbacks). Also new to the staff are former Indiana offensive coordinator Steve Addazio (tight ends), Stan Drayton (running backs) and John "Doc" Holliday (safeties).

A typically important early season showdown pits Florida against Tennessee in Gainesville on Sept. 17, a game that could go a long way toward deciding who wins the SEC East. Big trips to Alabama on Oct. 1 and LSU on Oct. 15 follow, as well as a Nov. 12 game at South Carolina against Spurrier's Gamecocks. The Gators wrap up the regular season at home Nov. 26 against Florida State.

Tough slate. But that's what you get when you sign up to compete at the highest level.



IN PROFILE ... ANDRE CALDWELL

New Gator go-to wideout looks to duplicate brother Reche's 1,000-yard receiving season

Andre Caldwell doesn't have to look far when it comes to motivation.

It runs in his blood.

Three years ago, Andre chose to attend the University of Florida, following in the footsteps of his older brother, Reche, now with the San Diego Chargers. During his three years at Florida, Reche was one of only nine players to gain more than 1,000 receiving yards in a single season with the Gators.

Now with a new pass-first scheme under new coach Urban Meyer, there's a great chance that Andrew will join his brother on that list.

"This is an offense I love," Caldwell told *The St. Petersburg Times*. "This is the reason I came here: a spread offense, throw it down the field, get it into the playmaker's hands."

Caldwell played sparingly his freshman year, primarily being used as a kickoff-return man and

only catching 19 total passes.

But he worked his way into the system last year and quickly became one of Florida's go-to receivers, finishing second on the team with 43 catches for 689 yards. He also tied for the team-high in kick-return yards with 174.

All of that was done under former Gators coach Ron Zook, who at times was known for his conventional play-calling. That likely won't happen with Meyer, who brings with him from Utah a complex offensive system. So much so, in fact, that the Florida receivers spent extra time in the offseason looking at film of last year's Utah receivers to get a better grasp of the system.

With the graduation of wideout O.J. Small, Caldwell returns as Florida's main receiving threat and will likely see an expanded role, which could help him reach that illustrious 1,000-yard mark this season.

It also doesn't hurt that his best friend and suitemate last year also happens to be the player on the throwing side—Florida quarterback Chris Leak.

—Matt McKenzie

2004 TEAM STATS

| TEAM STATISTICS | FLORIDA | OPP |
|----------------------|------------|------------|
| SCORING | 382 | 253 |
| Points Per Game | 31.8 | 21.1 |
| FIRST DOWNS | 254 | 239 |
| Rushing | 101 | 102 |
| Passing | 138 | 120 |
| Penalty | 15 | 17 |
| RUSHING YARDAGE | 1870 | 1703 |
| Yards gained rushing | 2122 | 1972 |
| Yards lost rushing | 252 | 269 |
| Rushing Attempts | 415 | 464 |
| Average Per Rush | 4.5 | 3.7 |
| Average Per Game | 155.8 | 141.9 |
| TDs Rushing | 20 | 11 |
| PASSING YARDAGE | 3253 | 2444 |
| Att-Cmp-Int | 407-243-12 | 395-219-17 |
| Average Per Pass | 8.0 | 6.2 |
| Average Per Catch | 13.4 | 11.2 |
| Average Per Game | 271.1 | 203.7 |
| TDs Passing | 29 | 15 |
| TOTAL OFFENSE | 5123 | 4147 |
| Total Plays | 822 | 859 |
| Average Per Play | 6.2 | 4.8 |
| Average Per Game | 426.9 | 345.6 |
| KICK RETURNS: #-YDS | 29-515 | 43-715 |
| PUNT RETURNS: #-YDS | 28-207 | 22-323 |
| INT RETURNS: #-YDS | 17-190 | 12-57 |
| KICK RETURN AVERAGE | 17.8 | 16.6 |
| PUNT RETURN AVERAGE | 7.4 | 14.7 |
| INT RETURN AVERAGE | 11.2 | 4.8 |
| FUMBLES-LOST | 20-8 | 11-7 |
| PENALTIES-YARDS | 106-844 | 71-538 |
| Average Per Game | 70.3 | 44.8 |
| PUNTS-GAMES | 56-2352 | 66-2572 |
| Average Per Punt | 42.0 | 39.0 |
| Net punt average | 36.2 | 35.8 |
| TIME OF POSS./GAME | 28:13 | 31:47 |
| 3RD-DOWN CONV. | 79/165 | 75/188 |
| 3rd-Down Pct | 48% | 40% |
| 4TH-DOWN CONV. | 5/7 | 7/17 |
| 4th-Down Pct | 71% | 41% |
| SACKS BY-YARDS | 23-140 | 19-132 |
| MISCELLANEOUS | 13 | 0 |
| TOUCHDOWNS SCORED | 49 | 30 |
| FIELD GOALS-ATTEMPTS | 13-19 | 14-20 |
| PAT-ATTEMPTS | 49-49 | 27-28 |
| ATTENDANCE | 530453 | 269170 |
| Games/Avg Per Game | 6/88409 | 4/67292 |
| Neutral Site Games | | 2/77038 |

| SCORE BY QTRS | 1st | 2nd | 3rd | 4th | OT | Total |
|---------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|-------|
| Florida | 76 | 139 | 92 | 75 | — | 382 |
| Opponent | 61 | 82 | 30 | 80 | — | 253 |

2004 INDIVIDUAL STATS OFFENSE

PASSING

| | | | | | | | |
|------------|----|--------|-------------|------|------|----|-------|
| Chris Leak | GP | Effic. | Att-Cmp-Int | Pct. | Yds. | TD | Avg/G |
| | 12 | 144.92 | 399-238-12 | 59.6 | 3197 | 29 | 266.4 |

Gavin Dickey

| | | | | | | | |
|--------------|----|--------|-------------|------|------|----|-------|
| Gavin Dickey | GP | Effic. | Att-Cmp-Int | Pct. | Yds. | TD | Avg/G |
| | 5 | 138.63 | 7-5-0 | 71.4 | 56 | 0 | 11.2 |

RUSHING

| | | | | | |
|-----------------|----|------|----------|-----|-------|
| Ciatiick Fason | GP | Att. | Net Avg. | TD | Avg/G |
| | 12 | 222 | 1267 | 5.7 | 10 |
| Skylar Thornton | 11 | 55 | 230 | 4.2 | 1 |

DeShawn Wynn

| | | | | | |
|--------------|----|------|----------|-----|-------|
| DeShawn Wynn | GP | Att. | Net Avg. | TD | Avg/G |
| | 8 | 58 | 217 | 3.7 | 5 |

RECEIVING

| | | | | | | |
|------------|----|-----|------|------|----|-------|
| O.J. Small | GP | No. | Yds. | Avg. | TD | Avg/G |
| | 12 | 63 | 719 | 11.4 | 4 | 59.9 |

Andre Caldwell

| | | | | | | |
|----------------|----|-----|------|------|----|-------|
| Andre Caldwell | GP | No. | Yds. | Avg. | TD | Avg/G |
| | 12 | 43 | 689 | 16.0 | 3 | 57.4 |

Ciatiick Fason

| | | | | | | |
|----------------|----|-----|------|------|----|-------|
| Ciatiick Fason | GP | No. | Yds. | Avg. | TD | Avg/G |
| | 12 | 35 | 266 | 7.6 | 2 | 22.2 |

DEFENSE

| TACKLES | GP | Solo | Ast. | Total |
|------------------|----|------|------|-------|
| Brandon Siler | 12 | 50 | 27 | 77 |
| Earl Everett | 11 | 51 | 23 | 74 |
| Channing Crowder | 9 | 44 | 29 | 73 |

SACKS

| | | | |
|--------------|----|-----|------|
| Earl Everett | GP | No. | Yds. |
| | 11 | 4.5 | 18 |

Marcus Thomas

| | | | |
|---------------|----|-----|------|
| Marcus Thomas | GP | No. | Yds. |
| | 12 | 4.5 | 25 |

Ray McDonald

| | | | |
|--------------|----|-----|------|
| Ray McDonald | GP | No. | Yds. |
| | 11 | 3.0 | 22 |

INTERCEPTIONS

| | | | | | |
|----------------|----|-----|------|------|----|
| Interceptions | GP | No. | Yds. | Avg. | TD |
| Jarvis Herring | 4 | 24 | 6.0 | 0 | 0 |

Demetrice Webb

| | | | | | |
|----------------|----|-----|------|------|----|
| Demetrice Webb | GP | No. | Yds. | Avg. | TD |
| | 3 | 30 | 10.0 | 0 | 0 |

Terrence Holmes

| | | | | | |
|-----------------|----|-----|------|------|----|
| Terrence Holmes | GP | No. | Yds. | Avg. | TD |
| | 3 | 24 | 8.0 | 0 | 0 |



D.J. SHOCKLEY, QB



2004 Record: 10-2 overall, 6-2 SEC (beat Wisconsin in the Outback Bowl, 24-21)

Stadium: Sanford Stadium

Turf: Grass

Official athletic Web site: www.georgiadogs.com

Capacity: 92,746

PRESEASON RANK:

FIVE-YEAR WINS TREND

3

| | | | | |
|------|------|------|------|------|
| 8 | 8 | 13 | 11 | 10 |
| 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 |

Head coach: Mark Richt, 5th Year (42-10) Career Record: 42-10

Assistant coaches: Mike Bobo (QBs), Neil Callaway (off. coord./off. line), John Eason (asst. head coach/WRs), Jon Fabris (def. ends), Rodney Garner (asst. head coach/def. line/recruiting coord.), David Johnson (TEs), Willie Martinez (def. coord./secondary), John Jancek (LBs), Kirby Smart (RBs)



2005 SCHEDULE

| DATE | OPPONENT | '04 RESULT |
|-------|--------------------|------------|
| S. 3 | Boise State | |
| S. 10 | South Carolina | 20-16 |
| S. 17 | Louisiana-Monroe | |
| S. 24 | @MISSISSIPPI STATE | |
| 0. 8 | @TENNESSEE | 14-19 |
| 0. 15 | @VANDERBILT | 33-3 |
| 0. 22 | Arkansas | 20-14 |
| 0. 29 | @FLORIDA | 31-24 |
| N. 12 | Auburn | 6-24 |
| N. 19 | Kentucky | 62-17 |
| N. 26 | @GEORGIA TECH | 19-13 |

PROJECTED STARTERS

| |
|---|
| Starters returning: 15 |
| Lettermen returning/lost: 57/15 |
| OFFENSE |
| QB 3 D.J. Shockley (6-1, 206, Sr.) |
| FB 35 Des Williams (6-1, 260, Jr.) |
| TB 20 Thomas Brown (5-8, 183, So.) |
| ST 72 Daniel Inman (6-7, 328, Jr.) |
| SG 70 Nick Jones (6-3, 285, Jr.) |
| C 50 Russ Tanner (6-4, 290, Sr.) |
| TG 74 Max Jean-Gilles (6-4, 340, Sr.) |
| TT 66 Dennis Roland (6-9, 309, Sr.) |
| TE 81 Leonard Pope (6-7, 250, Jr.) |
| SE 16 Bryan McLendon (5-11, 184, Sr.) |
| FL 4 Sean Bailey (6-1, 175, Jr.) |
| DEFENSE |
| DE 58 Will Thompson (6-3, 254, Sr.) |
| NT 92 Gerald Anderson (6-2, 315, Sr.) |
| DT 97 Kedric Golston (6-4, 292, Jr.) |
| DE 94 Quentin Moses (6-5, 248, Jr.) |
| SLB 12 Brandon Miller (6-4, 238, So.) |
| MLB 43 Tony Taylor (6-1, 238, Jr.) |
| WLB 42 Danny Verdun Wheeler (6-2, 245, Jr.) |
| SC 2 DeMario Minter (6-0, 198, Sr.) |
| WC 23 Tim Jennings (5-8, 178, Sr.) |
| FS 17 Greg Blue (6-2, 214, Sr.) |
| ROV 25 Tra Battle (5-11, 167, Jr.) |
| SPECIALISTS |
| PK 96 Brandon Couto (6-0, 197, r.-So.) |
| P 95 Gordon Ely-Kelso (6-2, 234, Jr.) |

RATING THE RECRUITS

1. Kade Weston, DT
N.J. product was one of nation's top-rated DTs.
2. Bryan Evans, CB
All-American DB; tallied 770 total yds. on offense.
3. Mohamed Massaquoi, WR
Set N.C. prep records for career yards and TDs.
4. C.J. Byrd, S/ATH
Regarded by some scouts as the top player in S.C.
5. Joe Cox, QB
31-0 as a starter; N.C. prep record 66 career TDs.

Bulldogs hope this D.J. is able to spin as many wins as QB predecessor Greene

David Greene is gone as Georgia's quarterback, taking with him his NCAA record 42 victories the last four years.

Now at Georgia the mantra is, "In D.J. we trust." They really don't have a choice.

Coach Mark Richt liked to inject backup D.J. Shockley liberally into the Georgia offense the last three years, allowing Greene to rest his record-breaking arm once in a while.

Now, it's Shockley's show.

"We already had some things in the offense that D.J. does better than David," Richt says. "We'll put more emphasis on those. We'll emphasize what he does well."

Even after a spring in which it was estimated he completed only about a third of his passes until the spring game—he was 11 of 19 then and threw for three touchdowns—backups Joe Tereshinski and Blake Barnes could gain no ground.

Playing catchup is something all of the Bulldogs are expected to have to do for the first time since 2001. Georgia will be looking up at Tennessee and Florida in most of the preseason rankings, especially since Georgia goes to Knoxville on Oct. 8 and despite the fact the Bulldogs broke a six-game losing streak to the Gators last season.

Richt credits that in part to the cost of doing business in the (pardon the pun) dog eat dog SEC.

"I think everybody has thought [the SEC East] was one of the toughest if not the toughest division in the United States," Richt says. "Some people are predicting us to be 20th in the country and fourth in the East, and last year we were fourth in the country. It's a tough conference."

Georgia lost only eight starters, but almost all were key. There was Greene, childhood friend David Pollack at defensive tackle, receivers Reggie Brown and Fred Gibson, linebackers Odell Thurman and Arnold Harrison and free safety Thomas Davis. Replacing them has been among the top objectives of the offseason.

The receiving corps is deep if undistinguished. Richt repeated all spring that the biggest mismatch on the practice fields was senior cornerbacks Tim Jennings and DeMario Minter on the receivers. Wideouts T.J. Gartrell and Demiko Goodman showed promise, as did Kenneth Harris,

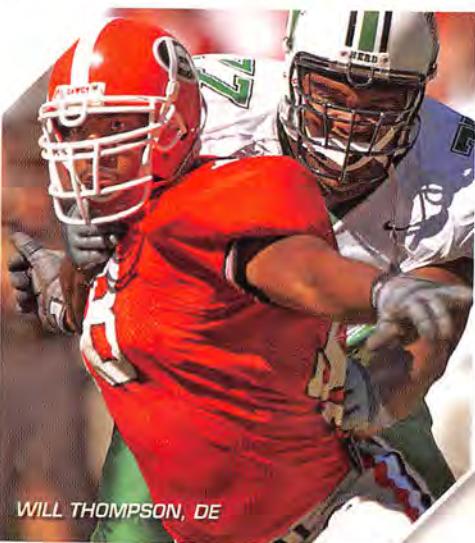
but no consistency.

Senior Will Thompson held down one defensive end spot while junior Quentin Moses and sophomore Charles Johnson battled for the other, neither taking a clear lead. Junior Tony Taylor, who missed all of 2002 with a knee injury, was full strength in the spring and nailed down the middle linebacker spot, while junior Danny Verdun Wheeler returns on the weakside.

The fight to replace Harrison was one of the best of the spring, as senior Derrick White and sophomore Brandon Miller squared off. Unfortunately for White, he got into a real fight along with starting defensive tackle Kedric Golston and is suspended for Georgia's first two games, basically handing the job to Miller. Golston is suspended only for the Sept. 3 opener with Boise State.

Georgia toyed with two-back sets in the spring, needing to develop some depth after sophomore Kregg Lumpkin tore his ACL the first day of practice and Michael Cooper transferred out. Sophomores Thomas Brown and Danny Ware ended up taking most of the snaps, along with senior Tony Milton.

Junior Gordon Ely-Kelso (40.0 average) returns as the punter. Andy Bailey led Georgia in scoring last year but missed a crucial extra point in the Georgia Tech game, creating an opening for fellow sophomore Brandon Couto. The latter was the difference in Georgia's 24-21 Outback Bowl win over Wisconsin and could be tough to dislodge.



WILL THOMPSON, DE

SOUTH CAROLINA

GAMECOCKS

COLUMBIA, S.C.

2004 Record: 6-5 overall, 4-4 SEC

Stadium: Williams-Brice Stadium

Official athletic Web site: www.uscsports.com



Turf: Grass

Capacity: 80,250

FIVE-YEAR WINS TREND

| | | | | |
|------|------|------|------|------|
| 8 | 9 | 5 | 5 | 6 |
| 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 |

4

Head coach: Steve Spurrier, 1st Year (0-0) **Career Record:** 142-40-2
Assistant coaches: Tyrone Nix (co-def. coord./def. line), John Thompson (co-def. coord./ILBs), Ron Cooper (OLBs), Madre Hill (RBS), John Hunt (off. line), David Reaves (QBs asst.), Steve Spurrier, Jr. (WRs), Rick Stockstill (TEs/recruiting coord.), Dave Wommack (secondary)

'Spurrier: Final Episode' begins run in Columbia with rave reviews expected

Sequels usually play well at the box office. They did this spring worldwide in the case of the latest Star Wars epic, "Revenge of the Sith," and more locally in South Carolina with "Episode II: The Return of Darth Visor."

We're talking about Steve Spurrier. The Evil Genius. The Ol' Ball Coach. This time, however, in the garnet and black of South Carolina instead of Florida's orange and blue.

Though wildly unsuccessful in two seasons as coach of the Washington Redskins, everyone who had an opening in the SEC wanted Spurrier, including Florida.

Somewhat shockingly, South Carolina landed him, hoping he can complete the climb to the SEC's high-rent district that Lou Holtz started in six years in Columbia but never finished.

Spurrier is still Spurrier, but he also wants his new legion of worshipers to be practical about what it will take for South Carolina to break through to SEC elite status.

"We hope to be at the top of the SEC some day," Spurrier offered after 38,806 showed up at Williams-Brice Stadium to watch the spring game. "It's the same goal as Florida, Georgia, Tennessee, Alabama, Auburn, LSU. All their fans expect them to be at the top also. There's only a few schools that don't realistically think they can get to the top. We've got everything here to be successful. We just have to go do it."

As expected, Spurrier has installed what he now calls the "Cock 'N Fire" offense, despite some questions about who will run it. Sophomore Blake Mitchell and redshirt freshman Antonio Heffner go into the fall neck-and-neck for the starting quarterback job. Senior Mike Rathe spent the spring petitioning the NCAA for a sixth year of eligibility.

With tailback Demetris Summers having been dismissed and wide receiver Troy Williamson gone to the NFL, junior Cory Boyd becomes the



STEVE SPURRIER

Gamecocks' offensive MVP: its top returning rusher (309 yards, 3 touchdowns) and receiver (35 catches, 347 yards). Junior receiver Noah Whiteside will be iffy for the season opener after breaking a bone in his ankle in spring practice and Syville Newton faces eligibility questions. Sidney Rice redshirted in 2004 following an early season knee injury but looked great in the spring catching one fade route—a Spurrier specialty—after another. Tight end Andy Boyd caught just one pass (for a touchdown) last season.

The line is solid at the tackles with seniors Na'Shan Goddard and Jabari Levey. Junior Chris White has played both guard spots and center but has settled in the middle. The starting guards are likely senior Freddie Saint-Preux on the left side and senior Eric Stroman on the right.

The defensive front has four new starters. Sophomores Stanley Doughty and Marque Hall are expected to start at tackle, with seniors De'Adrian Coley and Charles Silas at ends.

Senior Ricardo Hurley will line up at outside linebacker next to middle man Orus Lambert, another senior. Junior college transfer Mike West arrived in January and quickly moved past senior Lance Laury to take the other outside spot.

The Gamecocks have a strong secondary, led by SEC Freshman-of-the-Year Ko Simpson at rover-back. There are two good cover corners in junior Fred Bennett and sophomore Johnathan Joseph, and sophomore Chris Hampton is at free safety.

Senior punter Josh Brown returns, while incoming freshman Ryan Succop will find the kicking job his to lose.

While Holtz won some games at South Carolina, he rarely pulled off the big upset. While expecting eight or nine wins is a tall order for Spurrier's first season, always expect the unexpected from the Ol' Ball Coach.

If you're favored against the Gamecocks, you've been warned. ■



KO SIMPSON, FS

2005 SCHEDULE

| DATE | OPPONENT | '04 RESULT |
|-------|------------|------------|
| S. 1 | UCF | |
| S. 10 | @GEORGIA | 16-20 |
| S. 17 | Alabama | 20-3 |
| S. 24 | Troy | 17-7 |
| O. 1 | @AUBURN | |
| O. 8 | Kentucky | 12-7 |
| O. 22 | Vanderbilt | 31-6 |
| O. 29 | @TENNESSEE | 29-43 |
| N. 5 | @ARKANSAS | 35-32 |
| N. 12 | Florida | 14-48 |
| N. 19 | Clemson | 7-29 |

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 12
 Lettermen returning/lost: 40/25

OFFENSE

| | | |
|----|----|------------------------------------|
| QB | 12 | Blake Mitchell (6-3, 194, r-So.) |
| FB | 35 | Lanard Stafford (5-9, 253, So.) |
| TB | 3 | Cory Boyd (6-1, 200, Jr.) |
| LT | 78 | Jabari Levey (6-6, 312, Sr.) |
| LG | 54 | Freddy Saint-Preux (6-5, 308, Sr.) |
| C | 60 | Chris White (6-3, 309, r-Jr.) |
| RG | 58 | Eric Stroman (6-3, 280, r-Sr.) |
| RT | 70 | Na'Shan Goddard (6-5, 313, r-Sr.) |
| TE | 80 | Andy Boyd (6-4, 261, r-Jr.) |
| WR | 13 | Sylvie Newton (6-0, 218, Jr.) |
| WR | 1 | Noah Whiteside (5-11, 172, Jr.) |

DEFENSE

| | | |
|----|----|-----------------------------------|
| DE | 97 | Charles Silas (6-5, 272, r-Sr.) |
| NG | 98 | Chris Tucker (6-1, 278, r-Sr.) |
| DT | 79 | Marque Hall (6-3, 276, So.) |
| DE | 45 | De'Adrian Coley (6-2, 237, Sr.) |
| LB | 5 | Mike West (6-0, 206, So.) |
| LB | 42 | Ricardo Hurley (6-1, 228, Sr.) |
| LB | 51 | Orus Lambert (6-2, 240, r-Sr.) |
| CB | 8 | Fred Bennett (6-1, 193, Jr.) |
| CB | 9 | Johnathan Joseph (5-11, 187, So.) |
| FS | 10 | Ko Simpson (6-1, 199, So.) |
| SS | 23 | Tremaine Tyler (5-10, 185, Sr.) |

SPECIALISTS

| | | |
|----|----|------------------------------|
| PK | 64 | Ryan Succop (6-3, 210, Fr.) |
| P | 87 | Josh Brown (6-3, 203, r-Sr.) |

RATING THE RECRUITS

1. Mike Davis, RB
Spurrier kept South Carolina's top back at home.
2. Jonathan Hannah, TE
One of the top tight ends in the country.
3. O.J. Murdock, WR
Spurrier's Fla. ties lured speedster from Tampa.
4. Cade Thompson, QB
Class 4A Mr. Football in Tennessee.
5. Carlos Thomas, WR
One of Georgia's 10 best prospects.

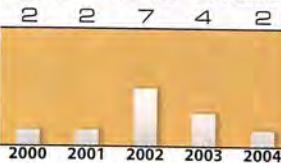
KENTUCKY

WILDCATS



2004 Record: 2-9 overall, 1-7 SEC
 Official athletic Web site: www.ukathletics.com

FIVE-YEAR WINS TREND



2005 SCHEDULE

| DATE | OPPONENT | '04 RESULT |
|-------|-------------------|------------|
| S. 3 | Louisville | 0-28 |
| S. 10 | Idaho State | |
| S. 17 | @INDIANA | 51-32 |
| S. 24 | Florida | 3-20 |
| O. 8 | @SOUTH CAROLINA | 7-12 |
| O. 22 | @MISSISSIPPI | |
| O. 29 | Mississippi State | 7-22 |
| N. 5 | Auburn | 10-42 |
| N. 12 | @VANDERBILT | 14-13 |
| N. 19 | @GEORGIA | 17-62 |
| N. 26 | Tennessee | 31-37 |

Head coach: Rich Brooks,
 3rd Year (6-17)

Career Record: 97-126-4

Stadium: Commonwealth Stadium

Turf: Grass

Capacity: 67,606

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 18
 Lettermen returning/lost: 47/26

OFFENSE

| | | |
|----|----|--------------------------------|
| QB | 3 | André Woodson (6-5, 230, So.) |
| FB | 25 | Alexis Bwenge (6-1, 229, Sr.) |
| TB | 22 | Rafael Little (5-11, 195, So.) |
| LT | 69 | Aaron Miller (6-6, 285, So.) |
| LG | 64 | Cody Morehead (6-5, 320, So.) |
| C | 62 | Matt McCutchan (6-3, 295, Sr.) |
| RG | 60 | Trai Williams (6-4, 280, Jr.) |
| RT | 57 | Hayden Lane (6-6, 280, Jr.) |
| TE | 18 | Jacob Tamme (6-5, 234, So.) |
| WR | 19 | Keenan Burton (6-2, 195, So.) |
| WR | 1 | Scott Mitchell (6-3, 222, Sr.) |

DEFENSE

| | | |
|-----|----|-----------------------------------|
| LE | 54 | B. Jay Parsons (6-5, 250, Sr.) |
| DT | 91 | Trey Mielsch (6-3, 280, Sr.) |
| DT | 45 | Lamar Mills (6-1, 285, Jr.) |
| RE | 9 | Durrell White (6-3, 245, Jr.) |
| WLB | 16 | Wesley Woodyard (6-1, 200, So.) |
| MLB | 44 | Jon Sumrall (6-2, 220, Sr.) |
| SLB | 46 | Joe Schuler (6-3, 240, So.) |
| CB | 36 | Antoine Huffman (6-0, 175, Sr.) |
| CB | 10 | Karl Booker (6-1, 189, Jr.) |
| FS | 2 | Marcus McClinton (6-1, 206, So.) |
| SS | 42 | Muhammad Abdullah (6-0, 205, Sr.) |

SPECIALISTS

| | | |
|----|----|-------------------------------|
| PK | 89 | Taylor Begley (6-0, 200, Sr.) |
| P | 80 | Jeff Archer (6-3, 225, Sr.) |

The news is promising for Kentucky's offense, pretty dismal for its defense.

When you've won just 17 games the last five seasons, you'll take whatever optimism you can find and work on the rest.

The Wildcats should be better at most on offense, starting at quarterback. Kentucky has a big, strong-armed quarterback in sophomore Andre' Woodson, who completed 54 of 88 passes last season for 492 yards and two touchdowns in relief of Shane Boyd.

Keeping Woodson healthy is mandatory, however. None of his backups have yet thrown a college pass.

Woodson will be tossing plenty of balls at his biggest target, 6-5, 234-pound Jacob Tamme. He switched from wide receiver to tight end in last season's finale at Tennessee and returns there this fall.

The Wildcats also bring back their top two receivers from last season to the wideout positions: Glenn Holt and Scott Mitchell.

Boyd was Kentucky's leading rusher last season, but UK does welcome back its top two running backs: Rafael Little and Tony Dixon. Once again it will be running back by committee for UK, but struggling for yards will be common behind an offensive line that has made marginal improvement since last season.

The defense switched from a 3-4 to a 4-3 in the spring more out of necessity than personal preference on coach Rick Brooks' part.

"I've played both," Brooks says. "I prefer the one that works."

The undersized Wildcats fared poorly in the 3-4, worst in the SEC in points allowed (31.0 per game) and rushing yards allowed (225.2). But even though UK needs fewer linebackers, it has fewer linebackers. Its top three middle linebacker prospects are gone, two transferring out and one forced to quit with a medical problem. Sophomore Joe Schuler is now the man in the middle.

This could be a critical season for Brooks, who is just 6-17 in two seasons with Kentucky. The schedule doesn't help as games with Georgia, Tennessee, Florida, South Carolina, Louisville and Auburn all look like losses. Kentucky has a chance at the other five.

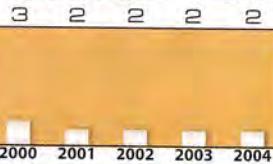
VANDERBILT

COMMODORES



2004 Record: 2-9 overall, 1-7 SEC
 Official athletic Web site: www.vucommodores.com

FIVE-YEAR WINS TREND



2005 SCHEDULE

| DATE | OPPONENT | '04 RESULT |
|-------|------------------------|------------|
| S. 1 | @WAKE FOREST | |
| S. 10 | @ARKANSAS | |
| S. 17 | Mississippi | 23-26 (OT) |
| S. 24 | Richmond | |
| O. 1 | Middle Tennessee State | |
| O. 8 | LSU | 7-24 |
| O. 15 | Georgia | 3-33 |
| O. 22 | @SOUTH CAROLINA | 6-31 |
| N. 5 | @FLORIDA | 17-34 |
| N. 12 | Kentucky | 13-14 |
| N. 19 | @TENNESSEE | 33-38 |

Head coach: Bobby Johnson,
 4th Year (6-29)

Career Record: 66-65

Stadium: Vanderbilt Stadium

Turf: Grass

Capacity: 39,790

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 13
 Lettermen returning/lost: 45/21

OFFENSE

| | | |
|----|----|-----------------------------------|
| QB | 6 | Jay Cutler (6-4, 225, Sr.) |
| FB | 44 | David Whittington (6-1, 235, So.) |
| TB | 21 | Jeff Jennings (6-1, 225, So.) |
| LT | 62 | Ryan King (6-7, 315, Sr.) |
| LG | 68 | Josh Eames (6-5, 300, r-Sr.) |
| C | 77 | Trey Holloway (6-2, 285, Sr.) |
| RG | 63 | Nigel Seaman (6-5, 315, Sr.) |
| RT | 72 | Brian Stamper (6-5, 290, Jr.) |
| TE | 84 | Dustin Dunning (6-5, 250, Sr.) |
| WR | 2 | Erik Davis (6-2, 185, Sr.) |
| WR | 82 | Marlon White (6-4, 205, Jr.) |

DEFENSE

| | | |
|-----|----|----------------------------------|
| DE | 4 | Herdley Harrison (6-3, 235, Sr.) |
| DT | 94 | Ray Brown (6-3, 295, Jr.) |
| DT | 95 | Ralph McKenzie (6-4, 310, Sr.) |
| DE | 43 | David Carter (6-5, 245, So.) |
| WLB | 30 | Moses Osemwogie (6-0, 220, Sr.) |
| MLB | 47 | Jonathan Goff (6-4, 240, r-So.) |
| SLB | 40 | Kevin Joyce (6-3, 215, Jr.) |
| CB | 34 | Sean Dixon (6-0, 185, Jr.) |
| CB | 36 | Andrew Pace (6-1, 210, Sr.) |
| FS | 33 | Reshard Langford (6-1, 205, So.) |
| SS | 12 | Kelechi Ohanaja (6-1, 210, Sr.) |

SPECIALISTS

| | | |
|----|----|-----------------------------------|
| PK | 22 | Bryant Hahnfeldt (5-10, 180, Fr.) |
| P | 19 | Kyle Keown (6-0, 200, r-So.) |

The troubles typically start to mount for the Vanderbilt Commodores a few losses into the football season. This time, Vanderbilt's troubles started with a loss far worse than any football game

Senior-to-be Kwane Doster, arguably the Commodores' best player, was shot to death sitting in a car the day after Christmas in his hometown of Tampa. His teammates spent the rest of the offseason trying to come to grips with his senseless death.

Out of heartbreak, Vanderbilt coach Bobby Johnson believes his players have found the best way to do just that.

"Obviously that was a terrible tragedy for our team to have to endure," Johnson says. "I was extremely proud of how they went about it. They are trying to remember the great things about Kwane, and are trying to figure out ways to honor him. One of the ways is to be a better football team."

Fine sentiments. Indeed many a team has fashioned a memorable season around a noble idea.

But this is Vanderbilt, which hasn't had a winning record since 1982. What would signify becoming a better team? Maybe just winning three games, which the Commodores have yet to do in three years under Johnson.

With Doster gone, most of the responsibility for moving the offense will fall to senior quarterback Jay Cutler and sophomore tailbacks Jeff Jennings and Cassen Jackson-Garrison. Cutler will have some talented hands to throw to with a deep receiver corps led by senior Erik Davis and junior Marlon White. The left side of the offensive line must retool after losing Justin Geisinger and Brian Kovolosky with Ryan King at tackle and Josh Eames at guard.

Defensively, defensive end Jovan Haye left early for the NFL and was replaced by senior Herdley Harrison, a converted linebacker. Andrew Pace also moved in the spring from strong safety to cornerback. Senior Moses Osemwogie, the SEC's second-leading tackler in 2004 with 9.4 stops per game, is back at weakside linebacker. On special teams, the Commodores missed five of their last 11 extra points last season, meaning freshman Bryant Hahnfeldt will get a chance to come in and kick right away.

BATON ROUGE, LA.

2004 Record: 9-3 overall, 6-2 SEC (lost to Iowa in the Capital One Bowl, 30-25)

Stadium: Tiger Stadium

Official athletic Web site: www.lsusports.net

Turf: Grass

Capacity: 91,600

LSU
TIGERS



FIVE-YEAR WINS TREND

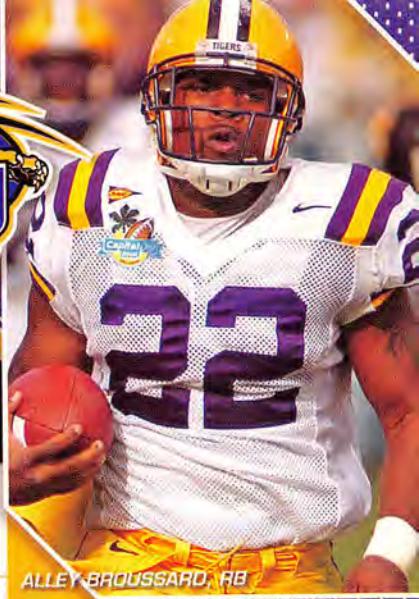


PRESEASON RANK:

1

Head coach: Les Miles, 1st Year (0-0) Career Record: 28-21

Assistant coaches: Jimbo Fisher (off. coord./QBs), Bo Pelini (def. coord.), Karl Dunbar (asst. head coach/def. line), Josh Henson (TEs/recruiting coord.), Doug Mallory (def. backs), Todd Monken (WRs/passing game coord.), Bradley Dale Peveto (special teams coord./LBs), Larry Porter (RBs), Stacy Searels (off. line)



ALLEY BROUSSARD, RB

Lots of home cooking at Tiger Stadium could provide difference for LSU goals

It was, at LSU, the kind of Christmas only the Grinch could love.

Christmas Day, the Tigers reported to Orlando for the Capital One Bowl as Nick Saban announced he was staying in Florida to become the new head coach of the Miami Dolphins. Then the Tigers sent Saban off by being burned for a game-ending, 56-yard touchdown pass by Iowa in a 30-25 defeat.

It was, for Les Miles, a holiday season with a happy ending. His Oklahoma State team was soundly thrashed by Ohio State 33-7 in the Alamo Bowl amid rampant speculation that he and Louisville's Bobby Petrino were the prime candidates to replace Saban.

In Miles' case, the speculation proved true. He was announced as LSU's head coach on Jan. 3, charged with not rebuilding a once-proud program but maintaining a legacy of success that has seen the Tigers win 40 games, a BCS national championship and two SEC titles the last four seasons.

Some coaches may have shied away from being the man to follow "The Man." But Miles, to his credit, embraces the challenge.

"I realized that when I looked at LSU from afar this university has everything," Miles says. "I want the opportunity to step alongside a great team, a great school and be part of extending a very competitive tradition. The ability to contend for every honor is available at LSU."

Miles struck the right note, because he inherits a team laden with talent, experience and enormous expectations for 2005.

Ten starters return on offense, the only loss being senior quarterback Marcus Randall.

The Tigers return two sophomore quarterbacks: JaMarcus Russell, who played in 11 of 12 games last year and started four times, and Matt Flynn, who was used sparingly. Russell completed 73 of 144 passes for 1,053 yards, nine touchdowns and four interceptions, Flynn just 4 of 10 for 99 yards and one score.



LES MILES

Russell engineered fourth-quarter comebacks that helped LSU beat Oregon State in the season opener and rally from a 24-12 fourth-quarter deficit to take a brief 25-24 lead over Iowa with 46 seconds remaining. Though Russell has an experience edge on Flynn and appeared to outplay him in the final spring scrimmage, Miles proclaimed the race too close to call going into August. Expect freshman Ryan Perrilloux, arguably the nation's top overall prospect, to also get a shot at the job when he reports for fall camp.

Whoever emerges as the quarterback will have an arsenal of weapons at his disposal.

The Tigers return four experienced tailbacks. Alley Broussard led the team with 867 yards and 10 rushing TDs. Joseph Addai is a threat to catch as well as run. Justin Vincent is trying to find the form that made him the SEC Championship Game and Sugar

Bowl MVP in the 2003 season. And scatback Shyrone Carey will also play a role.

The receiver corps can go five and possibly six deep if sophomore Amp Hill, limited by injuries the last two seasons, continues to display his spring form. LSU returns its top 13 receivers in all—including Addai, Vincent and tight ends David Jones and Keith Zinger—led by wideouts Craig

Davis, Dwayne Bowe, Skyler Green, Early Doucet and Xavier Carter.

The same offensive line returns intact that started the last four games after center Ben Wilkerson went down with a knee injury on the final play of the Vanderbilt game. Andrew Whitworth is an All-American candidate at left tackle and is joined by center Rudy Niswanger, guards Brian Johnson and Terrell McGill and right tackle Nate Livings.

There were definitely more holes to fill on defense, as the Tigers lost All-Americans Marcus Spears at end and Corey Webster at cornerback.

Senior Melvin Oliver and junior Chase Pittman will each take an end. Kyle Williams and Claude Wrotten return inside, one playing nose tackle, the other holding down defensive tackle in a slightly altered 4-3 alignment.

Cameron Vaughn takes over for Lionel Turner at middle linebacker, while Kenny Hollis and E.J. Kuale man the outside spots. Ali Highsmith is the prime backup.

2005 SCHEDULE

| DATE | OPPONENT | '04 RESULT |
|-------|--------------------|------------|
| S. 3 | North Texas | |
| S. 10 | Arizona State | |
| S. 24 | Tennessee | |
| O. 1 | @MISSISSIPPI STATE | 51-0 |
| O. 8 | @VANDERBILT | 24-7 |
| O. 15 | Florida | 24-21 |
| O. 22 | Auburn | 9-10 |
| N. 5 | Appalachian State | |
| N. 12 | @ALABAMA | 26-10 |
| N. 19 | @MISSISSIPPI | 27-24 |
| N. 26 | Arkansas | 43-14 |

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 18
Lettermen returning/lost: 47/13

OFFENSE

| | | |
|----|----|----------------------------------|
| QB | 4 | JaMarcus Russell (6-5, 248, So.) |
| FB | 18 | Jacob Hester (6-0, 225, So.) |
| RB | 22 | Alley Broussard (6-0, 233, Jr.) |
| LT | 76 | Andrew Whitworth (6-7, 325, Sr.) |
| LG | 68 | Terrell McGill (6-4, 325, Sr.) |
| C | 64 | Rudy Niswanger (6-5, 293, Sr.) |
| RG | 75 | Brian Johnson (6-4, 310, Jr.) |
| RT | 71 | Nate Livings (6-5, 295, Sr.) |
| TE | 82 | David Jones (6-4, 260, Sr.) |
| WR | 5 | Skyler Green (5-10, 195, Sr.) |
| WR | 80 | Dwayne Bowe (6-3, 213, Jr.) |

DEFENSE

| | | |
|-----|----|---------------------------------|
| LE | 94 | Chase Pittman (6-4, 258, Jr.) |
| LT | 98 | Claude Wrotten (6-3, 293, Sr.) |
| RT | 95 | Kyle Williams (6-2, 295, Sr.) |
| RE | 90 | Melvin Oliver (6-3, 274, Sr.) |
| WLB | 56 | Ken Hollis (6-0, 235, Sr.) |
| MLB | 46 | Cameron Vaughn (6-4, 237, Sr.) |
| SLB | 51 | E.J. Kuale (6-2, 225, Sr.) |
| LCB | 8 | Ronnie Prude (5-11, 182, Sr.) |
| RCB | 14 | Sammy Joseph (5-11, 179, Jr.) |
| FS | 30 | LaRon Landry (6-2, 187, Jr.) |
| SS | 31 | Jessie Daniels (5-11, 200, Jr.) |

SPECIALISTS

| | | |
|----|----|--------------------------------|
| PK | 41 | Chris Jackson (5-11, 165, Jr.) |
| P | 41 | Chris Jackson (5-11, 165, Jr.) |

RATING THE RECRUITS

1. **Ryan Perrilloux, QB**
A dual threat in the Michael Vick mold.
2. **Ricky Jean-Francois, DE**
Miami native had 15 sacks and 3 INTs as a senior.
3. **Ali Jones, DE**
Louisiana's second-best prospect after Perrilloux.
4. **Brandon LaFell, WR**
Somewhat underrated, but impressive size, speed.
5. **R.J. Jackson, RB**
Miles learns quickly how fertile Houston is for LSU.

2004 TEAM STATS

| TEAM STATISTICS | LSU | OPP |
|-------------------------|------------|------------|
| SCORING | 344 | 205 |
| Points Per Game | 28.7 | 17.1 |
| FIRST DOWNS | 250 | 158 |
| Rushing | 125 | 59 |
| Passing | 116 | 87 |
| Penalty | 9 | 12 |
| RUSHING YARDAGE | 2326 | 1197 |
| Yards gained rushing | 2721 | 1603 |
| Yards lost rushing | 395 | 406 |
| Rushing Attempts | 506 | 410 |
| Average Per Rush | 4.6 | 2.9 |
| Average Per Game | 193.8 | 99.8 |
| TDs Rushing | 20 | 7 |
| PASSING YARDAGE | 2421 | 1886 |
| Att-Comp-Int | 319-179-10 | 333-160-14 |
| Average Per Pass | 7.6 | 5.7 |
| Average Per Catch | 13.5 | 11.8 |
| Average Per Game | 201.8 | 157.2 |
| TDs Passing | 19 | 16 |
| TOTAL OFFENSE | 4747 | 3083 |
| Total Plays | 825 | 743 |
| Average Per Play | 5.8 | 4.1 |
| Average Per Game | 395.6 | 256.9 |
| KICK RETURNS: #-YDS | 31-627 | 46-759 |
| PUNT RETURNS: #-YDS | 35-271 | 20-120 |
| INT RETURNS: # -YDS | 14-242 | 10-179 |
| KICK RETURN AVERAGE | 20.2 | 16.5 |
| PUNT RETURN AVERAGE | 7.7 | 6.0 |
| INT RETURN AVERAGE | 17.3 | 17.9 |
| FUMBLES-LOST | 22-15 | 21-9 |
| PENALTIES-YARDS | 72-547 | 76-550 |
| Average Per Game | 45.6 | 45.8 |
| PUNTS-YARDS | 56-2134 | 85-3441 |
| Average Per Punt | 38.1 | 40.5 |
| Net punt average | 36.0 | 37.3 |
| TIME OF POSSESSION/GAME | 31:24 | 28:36 |
| 3RD-DOWN CONV. | 71/167 | 56/176 |
| 3rd-Down Pct | 43% | 32% |
| 4TH-DOWN CONV. | 4/7 | 5/12 |
| 4th-Down Pct | 57% | 42% |
| SACKS BY-YARDS | 37-296 | 33-246 |
| MISC YARDS | 20 | 6 |
| TOUCHDOWNS SCORED | 43 | 25 |
| FIELD GOALS-ATTEMPTS | 17-25 | 11-13 |
| PAT-ATTEMPTS | 33-41 | 20-23 |
| ATTENDANCE | 638462 | 326403 |
| Games/Avg Per Game | 7/91209 | 4/81601 |
| Neutral Site Games | | |

| SCORE BY QTRS | 1st | 2nd | 3rd | 4th | OT | Total |
|---------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|-------|
| LSU | 77 | 116 | 61 | 83 | 7 | 344 |
| Opponent | 64 | 64 | 41 | 30 | 6 | 205 |

2004 INDIVIDUAL STATS
OFFENSE

| PASSING | Offense | | | | | | |
|------------------|---------|--------|-------------|------|-------|-------|-------|
| Marcus Randall | GP | Effic. | Att-Cmp-Int | Pct. | Yds. | TD | Avg/G |
| | 12 | 139.69 | 162-102-6 | 63.0 | 1269 | 9 | 105.8 |
| JaMarcus Russell | GP | Effic. | Att-Cmp-Int | Pct. | Yds. | TD | Avg/G |
| | 11 | 127.19 | 144-73-4 | 50.7 | 1053 | 9 | 95.7 |
| Matt Flynn | GP | Effic. | Att-Cmp-Int | Pct. | Yds. | TD | Avg/G |
| | 10 | 156.16 | 10-4-0 | 40.0 | 99 | 1 | 9.9 |
| RUSHING | GP | Att. | Net Avg. | TD | Avg/G | | |
| Alley Broussard | 12 | 142 | 867 | 6.1 | 10 | 72.2 | |
| Joseph Addai | 12 | 101 | 680 | 6.7 | 3 | 56.7 | |
| Justin Vincent | 12 | 76 | 322 | 4.2 | 2 | 26.8 | |
| RECEIVING | GP | No. | Yds. | Avg. | TD | Avg/G | |
| Craig Davis | 12 | 43 | 659 | 15.3 | 1 | 54.9 | |
| Dwayne Bowe | 11 | 39 | 597 | 15.3 | 5 | 54.3 | |
| Joseph Addai | 12 | 26 | 294 | 11.3 | 4 | 24.5 | |

DEFENSE

| TACKLES | GP | Solo | Ast. | Total |
|----------------|-----|------|------|-------|
| LaRon Landry | 12 | 53 | 39 | 92 |
| Lionel Turner | 12 | 34 | 48 | 82 |
| Jessie Daniels | 12 | 31 | 33 | 64 |
| SACKS | GP | No. | Yds. | |
| Marcus Spears | 12 | 9.0 | 72 | |
| Claude Wrotten | 12 | 6.0 | 43 | |
| Kyle Williams | 11 | 6.0 | 40 | |
| INTERCEPTIONS | No. | Yds. | Avg. | TD |
| LaRon Landry | 4 | 51 | 12.8 | 0 |
| Jessie Daniels | 3 | 32 | 10.7 | 0 |
| Corey Webster | 2 | 46 | 23.0 | 0 |

Junior LaRon Landry, who led LSU in tackles his first two seasons, returns to the free safety spot next to strong safety Jessie Daniels. Ronnie Prude and junior transfer Sammy Joseph, a former starter at Colorado, go into the fall vying for one cornerback spot while Mario Stevenson and Chevis Jackson compete at the other.

On special teams, junior kicker Chris Jackson may be the most versatile athlete on the LSU campus. Not only did Jackson nail down the punting job in the spring—he averaged 40.0 yards per kick last season—he battled hard with classmate Ryan Gaudet for the placekicker job that was still undecided going into August. This as Jackson split time with the baseball team where he was the Tigers' leadoff hitter and starting third baseman.

Jackson made 11 of 15 field goals last year but just 15-of-20 on extra points. Gaudet was slightly more accurate, making six of eight field goals and 18 of 21 extra points.

Though Green was hampered by injuries last year he still led the Tigers with 22.6 yards per kickoff return and should be expected to better that average this fall with Xavier Carter and Joseph Addai backing him up. Green led the nation in punt returns in 2003 and should return to that role as well.

Miles kept just two of Saban's former assistants—offensive coordinator Jimbo Fisher and offensive line coach Stacy Searels. Fisher turned down an offer of a position assistant's job with Saban's Dolphins to return with Miles for his sixth season at LSU, the longest tenure of any assistant on the staff.

Keeping Fisher wasn't Miles' best sell job. He convinced former LSU defensive lineman Karl Dunbar to leave

the Chicago Bears to return as the Tigers' assistant head coach/defensive line coach.

Four assistants followed Miles from Oklahoma State: Doug Mallory (defensive backs), Josh Henson (tight ends/recruiting), Larry Porter (running backs) and Todd Monken (receivers, passing game coordinator), plus administrative assistant Mack Butler.

Miles went through a string of defensive coordinators before luring Bo Pelini from Oklahoma. Pelini, who was interim head coach at Nebraska for the 2003 Alamo Bowl after Frank Solich was fired, was co-coordinator at Oklahoma with Brent Venables last season. Bradley Dale Peveto (linebackers/special teams) was defensive coordinator at Middle Tennessee State.

The SEC schedule maker couldn't have been kinder to the Tigers, whose toughest road challenge comes Nov. 12 at Alabama, a team LSU has beaten four of the last five years.

The Tigers went 7-0 at home last season for the first time since 1972, and it is at Tiger Stadium where they will likely state their case for SEC and national championships, with key dates against Arizona State Sept. 10, Tennessee Sept. 24, Florida Oct. 15 and Auburn Oct. 22.

The big concern to many LSU fans is the late addition of Division I-AA foe Appalachian State on Nov. 5, the worry being that such a foe will drag down the Tigers' strength of schedule and keep them out of the BCS title hunt much like 13-0 Auburn last season.

LSU has to win enough to have such worries. But if the offense clicks and the defense gels, LSU has a great chance to play in Atlanta on Dec. 3 and be smelling roses in January.

trying to do the same things. But I just need to clear it out."

With LSU losing starting corners Travis Daniels and Corey Webster, Landry and strong safety Jesse Daniels will be thrust into leadership positions in the defensive backfield. It's a position Landry says he has no problem with, as long as the effort is there.

"As a secondary, I think we bring a lot to the table," he says. "Jesse and I have experience, so we feel comfortable playing together."

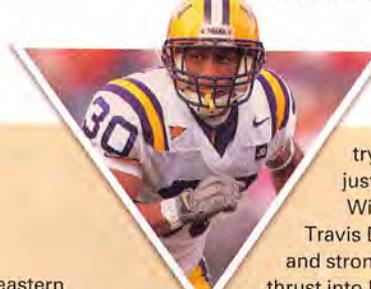
"[And] being a leader isn't going to change how I play. I still have to work hard like I did last year, [giving] 110 percent every day, learning the playbook and showcasing my talent."

Landry's playbook will be a little different this season with the addition of new coach Les Miles. The former Oklahoma State coach replaces Nick Saban, who relocated to the NFL to take the head-coaching position with the Miami Dolphins.

"The change really didn't bother me," Landry says. "A coach is a coach. Basically the playbook we have right now is similar ... not a really big difference. Coach Miles came in talking about how we need to come together as a team and work hard together, giving effort."

That should be no problem for Landry, who always seems to be involved in every defensive play. He says that's because he has "a nose for the ball."

—Matt McKenzie


**IN PROFILE ...
LARON LANDRY**

*Tigers' All-America safety
is his own toughest critic*

As a free safety in the Southeastern Conference, LSU junior LaRon Landry is charged with being the last line of defense against some of the nation's top wideouts.

But before even stepping onto the field, Landry has to deal with his toughest and most critical opponent—himself.

"I need to be more consistent this year, not competing with myself," says the 6-2, 187-pound Landry, who was selected to the Freshman All-America Team in 2003. "If I find myself in that thought process, then I'll find myself in a bind."

Landry has quickly become one of the team's defensive stars, leading the Tigers in tackles his first two seasons at LSU—finishing with 80 his freshman year, then upping that total to 92 in 2004. The two-time All-SEC second-team selection also has seven interceptions and five sacks in two seasons. But Landry says he can't let statistics affect his play heading into his junior season.

"I know I was the leading tackler last year," he says. "But I can't play every game thinking that. I can't find myself thinking, 'Last year I would have made that play.' It's kind of hard, [because] you can always do better. Sometimes I find myself

AUBURN TIGERS

AUBURN, ALA.

2004 Record: 13-0 overall, 8-0 SEC (beat Virginia Tech in the Sugar Bowl, 16-13)

Stadium: Jordan-Hare Stadium

Official athletic Web site: www.auburntigers.com

Turf: Grass

Capacity: 87,451



FIVE-YEAR WINS TREND

| | | | | |
|------|------|------|------|------|
| 9 | 7 | 9 | 8 | 13 |
| 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 |

PRESEASON RANK:

2

Head coach: Tommy Tuberville, 7th Year (51-24) Career Record: 76-44

Assistant coaches: Al Borges (off. coord./QBs), David Gibbs (def. coord./def. backs), Hugh Nall (off. line), Eddie Gran (RBs/special teams), Greg Knox (WRs/recruiting coord.), Steve Ensminger (TEs), Joe Whitt (LBs), Terry Price (def. ends), Don Dunn (def. line)

Despite loss of four NFL first-rounders, all's not lost for Tuberville on Plains

A second national championship remains a frustratingly elusive goal for the Auburn Tigers, close enough for them to see yet too far away to touch.

Four SEC teams have won national championships since the conference went to divisional play in 1992. Two of them—Florida in 1996 and LSU in 2003—won titles despite having one loss.

No one besides Auburn has had two undefeated seasons in that time span, and yet the Tigers have nothing to show for it from a national perspective. The 1993 Tigers went 11-0 and finished No. 4 in the *Associated Press* poll while on probation. Last year's Tigers went 13-0 but had to watch as Southern California beat Oklahoma in the BCS title game at the Orange Bowl, the BCS formula having found Auburn unfit to compete.

No one expects Auburn to win the national championship this year, either. Not after what they lost.

April's NFL Draft had an overwhelming orange-and-blue tint to it. A record four Tigers went in the first round: running back Ronnie Brown No. 2 to Miami, running back Carnell "Cadillac" Williams with the fifth pick to Tampa Bay, cornerback Carlos Rogers with the ninth pick to Washington and quarterback Jason Campbell at No. 25 to Washington. Defensive tackle Jay Ratliff went in the seventh round to Dallas.

Auburn coach Tommy Tuberville must have shed a tear of pride after watching so many of his players get drafted so highly. The second tear was probably sadness.

"It's not ever good to lose four No. 1 draft picks," says Tuberville, who went from almost being fired to National Coach of the Year in one season. "It was fun to watch and to be around them, but now you have to start over."

Fifteen seniors return, the most in Tuberville's seven seasons at Auburn, with six starters each back on offense and defense.

Retooling the backfield with rookies, of course, will be the critical test.

Sophomore quarterback Brandon Cox emerged from spring practice as the heir apparent to Campbell. It wasn't much of a race, though. Cox is the only Auburn quarterback with any experience,

completing 22 of 34 passes for 357 yards with four touchdowns and two interceptions in seven games.

To prepare him for the season, Tuberville allowed the defense to throw every scheme at Cox during spring practice. A smart, accurate passer, the only question is his arm strength.

If Cox can get the ball out there deep, he has the receivers to go and get it. Three of Auburn's top four receivers return (Brown ranked second last year). Junior Courtney Taylor led the way last season with 43 catches for 737 yards and six touchdowns. Seniors Devin Aromashodu and Ben Obomanu are also back. Obomanu caught 25 passes for 359 yards and a team-high seven TDs, while Aromashodu had 24 catches for 513 yards and four scores. Senior tight end Cooper Wallace is also back after pulling in 19 catches for 302 yards last season.

As one might expect, it will take more than just two tailbacks to fill the void left by Williams and Brown. Tre Smith, a junior who had just two carries for 36 yards last season, emerged as the No. 1 running back leaving spring drills. But it will definitely be running back by committee for Auburn as sophomore Carl Stewart (39 carries, 184 yards, 2 TDs) and junior Kenny Irons (no carries last year) also get their share. Senior Jake Slaughter returns at fullback.

Junior Joe Cope handled most of the reps at center as senior Steven Ross continued to recover from knee surgery he underwent last September. Meanwhile, juniors Ben Grubbs and Tim Duckworth finished the spring No. 1 at left and right guard, respectively. Senior Troy Reddick is an experienced hand at right tackle, while senior left tackle Marcus McNeill is one of the SEC's best.

The defensive line lost three of four starters but the one that returns, sophomore end Stanley McClover, is one of the league's best. As a freshman, McClover shared the team lead in tackles for loss (10) and sacks (7.5). Junior Marquies Gunn emerged from spring practice atop the depth chart at the other defensive end spot, sending sophomore Quentin Groves over to back up McClover. Senior T.J. Jackson returns to start at nose guard after missing much of the spring with a minor knee injury. Junior Wayne Dickens is the top defensive tackle, but is expected to rotate with sophomore Neil Brown and redshirt freshman Pat Sims.

The linebacker corps is obviously the strength of a tough defense. All three starters return though they were injured in the spring. Middle linebacker



COURTNEY TAYLOR, WR

2005 SCHEDULE

| DATE | OPPONENT | '04 RESULT |
|-------|-------------------|------------|
| S. 3 | Georgia Tech | |
| S. 10 | Mississippi State | 43-14 |
| S. 17 | Ball State | |
| S. 24 | Western Kentucky | |
| O. 1 | South Carolina | |
| O. 15 | @ARKANSAS | 38-20 |
| O. 22 | @LSU | 10-9 |
| O. 29 | Mississippi | 35-14 |
| N. 5 | @KENTUCKY | 42-10 |
| N. 12 | @GEORGIA | 24-6 |
| N. 19 | Alabama | 21-13 |

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 13
Lettermen returning/lost: 47/18

OFFENSE

| | |
|----|------------------------------------|
| QB | 12 Brandon Cox (6-2, 202, So.) |
| FB | 44 Jake Slaughter (6-2, 241, Sr.) |
| TB | 22 Tre Smith (5-10, 199, Jr.) |
| LT | 73 Marcus McNeill (6-9, 337, Sr.) |
| LG | 69 Ben Grubbs (6-3, 302, Jr.) |
| C | 74 Steven Ross (6-6, 292, Sr.) |
| RG | 76 Tim Duckworth (6-3, 326, Jr.) |
| RT | 66 Troy Reddick (6-5, 335, Sr.) |
| TE | 8 Cooper Wallace (6-4, 265, Sr.) |
| WR | 1 Devin Aromashodu (6-2, 202, Sr.) |
| WR | 86 Courtney Taylor (6-2, 204, Jr.) |

DEFENSE

| | |
|-----|--|
| DE | 48 Marquies Gunn (6-4, 238, Jr.) |
| NG | 58 T.J. Jackson (6-1, 305, Sr.) |
| DT | 96 Wayne Dickens (6-1, 296, Jr.) |
| DE | 75 Stanley McClover (6-3, 247, So.) |
| WLB | 31 Antarious Williams (5-11, 206, Sr.) |
| MLB | 51 Travis Williams (6-1, 207, Sr.) |
| SLB | 40 Kevin Sears (6-4, 247, Jr.) |
| CB | 4 David Irons (6-1, 189, Sr.) |
| CB | 19 Montavis Pitts (6-3, 206, Jr.) |
| FS | 35 Will Herring (6-4, 215, Jr.) |
| SS | 3 Tony Bell (6-2, 218, So.) |

SPECIALISTS

| | |
|----|--------------------------------|
| PK | 37 John Vaughn (6-1, 201, Jr.) |
| P | 30 Kody Bliss (5-11, 177, Jr.) |

RATING THE RECRUITS

1. **Tommy Trott, TE**
Alabama Player of the Year caught 14 TDs in '04.
2. **Gabe McKenzie, TE**
Light, talented TE who averaged 18 yards per catch.
3. **Jonathan Wilhite, DB**
Junior College All-America cornerback.
4. **Montez Billings, WR**
First-team all-state selection in Alabama.
5. **Prechae Rodriguez, WR**
Jucos had 39 catches plus 236 yards in kick returns.



2004 TEAM STATS

| TEAM STATISTICS | AUBURN | OPP |
|----------------------|-----------|------------|
| SCORING | 417 | 147 |
| Points Per Game | 32.1 | 32.1 |
| FIRST DOWNS | 271 | 187 |
| Rushing | 134 | 77 |
| Passing | 124 | 93 |
| Penalty | 13 | 17 |
| RUSHING YARDAGE | 2383 | 1354 |
| Yards gained rushing | 2731 | 1698 |
| Yards lost rushing | 348 | 344 |
| Rushing Attempts | 553 | 413 |
| Average Per Rush | 4.3 | 3.3 |
| Average Per Game | 183.3 | 104.2 |
| TDS Rushing | 27 | 4 |
| PASSING YARDAGE | 3086 | 2255 |
| Att-Cmp-Int | 308-211-9 | 367-200-16 |
| Average Per Pass | 10.0 | 6.1 |
| Average Per Catch | 14.6 | 11.3 |
| Average Per Game | 237.4 | 173.5 |
| TDS Passing | 25 | 15 |
| TOTAL OFFENSE | 5469 | 3609 |
| Total Plays | 861 | 780 |
| Average Per Play | 6.4 | 4.6 |
| Average Per Game | 420.7 | 277.6 |
| KICK RETURNS: #-YDS | 15-332 | 33-692 |
| PUNT RETURNS: #-YDS | 36-429 | 23-147 |
| INT RETURNS: #-YDS | 16-118 | 9-118 |
| KICK RETURN AVERAGE | 22.1 | 21.0 |
| PUNT RETURN AVERAGE | 11.9 | 6.4 |
| INT RETURN AVERAGE | 7.4 | 13.1 |
| FUMBLES-LOST | 17-12 | 15-9 |
| PENALTIES-YARDS | 80-686 | 95-750 |
| Average Per Game | 52.8 | 57.7 |
| PUNTS-YARDS | 49-2008 | 83-3190 |
| Average Per Punt | 41.0 | 38.4 |
| Net punt average | 38.0 | 33.3 |
| TIME OF POSS./GAME | 31:51 | 28:09 |
| 3RD-DOWN CONV. | 72/157 | 48/174 |
| 3rd-Down Pct | 46% | 28% |
| 4TH-DOWN CONV. | 7/15 | 10/21 |
| 4th-Down Pct | 47% | 48% |
| SACKS BY-YARDS | 36-221 | 18-138 |
| MISC YARDS | 20 | 2 |
| TOUCHDOWNS SCORED | 54 | 19 |
| FIELD GOALS-ATTEMPTS | 12-15 | 6-10 |
| PAT-ATTEMPTS | 51-52 | 15-16 |
| ATTENDANCE | 581597 | 303454 |
| Games/Avg Per Game | 7/83085 | 4/75864 |
| Neutral Site Games | 2/76120 | |

| SCORE BY QTRS | 1st | 2nd | 3rd | 4th | OT | Total |
|---------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|-------|
| Auburn | 129 | 95 | 116 | 77 | — | 417 |
| Opponent | 19 | 20 | 38 | 70 | — | 147 |

2004

INDIVIDUAL STATS
OFFENSE

PASSING

| | | | | | | | |
|----------------|----|--------|-------------|------|------|----|-------|
| Jason Campbell | GP | Effic. | Att-Cmp-Int | Pct. | Yds. | TD | Avg/G |
| | 13 | 172.89 | 270-188-7 | 69.6 | 2700 | 20 | 207.7 |

Brandon Cox

| | | | | | | | |
|-------------|----|--------|-------------|------|------|----|-------|
| Brandon Cox | GP | Effic. | Att-Cmp-Int | Pct. | Yds. | TD | Avg/G |
| | 7 | 179.96 | 34-22-2 | 64.7 | 357 | 4 | 51.0 |

RUSHING

| | | | | | |
|------------------|----|------|----------|-----|-------|
| Rushing | GP | Att. | Net Avg. | TD | Avg/G |
| Carnell Williams | 13 | 239 | 1165 | 4.9 | 12 |

| | | | | | |
|--------------|----|-----|-----|-----|---|
| Ronnie Brown | 12 | 153 | 913 | 6.0 | 8 |
| Carl Stewart | 13 | 39 | 184 | 4.7 | 2 |

RECEIVING

| | | | | | | |
|-----------------|----|-----|------|------|----|-------|
| RECEIVING | GP | No. | Yds. | Avg. | TD | Avg/G |
| Courtney Taylor | 13 | 43 | 737 | 17.1 | 6 | 56.7 |

| | | | | | | |
|--------------|----|----|-----|------|---|------|
| Ronnie Brown | 12 | 34 | 313 | 9.2 | 1 | 26.1 |
| Ben Obomanu | 13 | 25 | 359 | 14.4 | 7 | 27.6 |

DEFENSE

| TACKLES | GP | Solo | Ast. | Total |
|-----------------|----|------|------|-------|
| Travis Williams | 13 | 58 | 22 | 80 |

| | | | | |
|------------------|----|----|----|----|
| Will Herring | 13 | 44 | 17 | 61 |
| Junior Rosegreen | 13 | 40 | 17 | 57 |

SACKS

| SACKS | GP | No. | Yds. |
|----------------|----|-----|------|
| Quentin Groves | 13 | 7.5 | 37 |

| | | | |
|--------------------|----|-----|----|
| Stanley McClover | 13 | 7.5 | 44 |
| Antarrius Williams | 10 | 3.0 | 21 |

| INTERCEPTIONS | No. | Yds. | Avg. | TD |
|------------------|-----|------|------|----|
| Junior Rosegreen | 6 | 48 | 8.0 | 0 |

| | | | | |
|---------------|---|----|------|---|
| Will Herring | 3 | -2 | -0.7 | 0 |
| Carlos Rogers | 2 | 53 | 26.5 | 1 |

Travis Williams, who led Auburn with 80 stops in 2004, had a high-ankle sprain. Strongside linebacker Kevin Sears broke his thumb. And weakside backer Antarrius Williams was still rehabbing the wrist he broke late last season.

Junior Will Herring returns at free safety but could be pushed aside by sophomore Eric Brock. Junior Montavis Pitts returns at one corner, while senior David Irons, Kenny's brother, looks like Rogers' successor at the other. Sophomore Tony Bell played both safeties but is No. 1 at strong going into fall camp.

Both kickers, John Vaughn and Kody Bliss, return after strong sophomore campaigns. Vaughn was 12-of-15 on field goal chances and 51 of 52 extra points, while Bliss averaged 42.3 yards per punt and didn't have any of his 47 attempts blocked.

As you might expect coming off an unbeaten season, there was little change in Auburn's coaching staff. The one move was a significant one, however, as defensive coordinator Gene Chizik, the Broyles Award winner as the nation's top assistant, made a lateral move to Texas. He was replaced by David Gibbs, who spent the last four seasons coaching defensive backs for the Denver Broncos. Gibbs graduated from Auburn High School and his father, Alex, was Auburn's offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach from 1979-81.

IN PROFILE ...
STANLEY McCLOVER

McClover set to lead encore for stingy Auburn defense

If Auburn's spring game is any indication, it should be another strong year for the Tigers' defense, and it likely will start with defensive end Stanley McClover.

McClover had four sacks in Auburn's annual "A-Day" spring intrasquad game, putting the early buzz on the 6-3, 247-pound redshirt sophomore as

the leader of the Tigers' defense.

"That was just a taste of what we can do," said McClover after the game, where he was named defensive MVP for the second straight year. "I think we've got a lot of potential to be a great defense."

Potential has always followed McClover. As a prep star at Dillard High in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., he recorded 102 tackles and 22 sacks as a senior. Tigers coach Tommy Tuberville first saw promise in him when McClover came to Auburn's high school camp—so much, in fact, that at times McClover would be held out of drills because his skills were superior to opposing prep offensive linemen.

McClover was involved in a heated recruiting battle, as he originally verbally committed to Ohio State, then recanted and signed a letter-of-intent with the Tigers. He flashed his abilities almost immediately, nabbing defensive MVP honors as a freshman in his first "A-Day" spring game. But for all the hype surrounding McClover, he was unable to show what he could do in

Like offensive coordinator Al Borges last season, Gibbs came in and changed terminology but basically kept the same 4-3 scheme. Auburn will be expected to take more chances and blitz more often, though, and employ more press coverages.

"I was very interested in getting someone who runs the 4-3 package like we run from the pro ranks to give us a better idea about situation football," Tuberville says. "I thought if there was anything we lacked defensively this past year was having a match-up defense in certain games. David has a lot of experience in that. Hopefully he can take us to another level."

The schedule sets up perfectly for an Auburn team trying to find a new identity. The Tigers have an excellent chance to start 5-0 with five straight home games against Georgia Tech, Mississippi State, Ball State, Western Kentucky and South Carolina before venturing on the SEC road to Arkansas and LSU.

The LSU game on Oct. 22 could be the turning point of Auburn's season. Four of the last five years the winner of that game has gone on to represent the Western Division in the SEC Championship Game, Auburn in 2000 and 2004, LSU in 2001 and 2003. Still, the season concludes with another tough one-two finish with a Nov. 12 road trip to Georgia and a Nov. 19 home finale with Alabama.



real game action, having to sit out due to his partial-qualifier status under NCAA rules.

After getting his academics together,

McClover quickly shot up the depth chart last year, starting Auburn's 2004 season opener against Louisiana-Monroe. He officially only started one more game (LSU), but was steadily involved in Auburn's stingy defense, tying for the team lead in both sacks (7.5) and tackles for loss (10).

McClover's play was a big reason Auburn led the nation in scoring defense, as the Tigers allowed just 11.2 points a game. Behind the Tigers' D, which also ranked fifth in the nation for total defense (269.5 yards a game), the team finished with a school-best record of 13-0 and a Sugar Bowl victory over Virginia Tech.

Defense is something Auburn may have to rely on early in 2005, with the graduation of quarterback Jason Campbell and the star running back tandem of Ronnie Brown and Carnell Williams. With McClover now settled in a starting role, he says the unit is ready for the challenge.

"The defense is greatly anticipating this season," McClover said after Auburn's spring game. "We want to show we can run and play with anyone in the nation. I don't feel any extra pressure because the offense is so young. The defense was in the same situation last year with all the people graduating the year before."

"We stepped up as a defense, and the offense will have to do the same."

—Matt McKenzie

ALABAMA

CRIMSON TIDE

TUSCALOOSA, ALA.

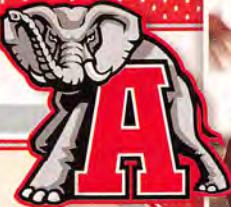
2004 Record: 6-6 overall, 3-5 SEC (lost to Minnesota in the Music City Bowl, 20-16)

Stadium: Bryant-Denny Stadium

Official athletic Web site: www.rolltide.com

Turf: Grass

Capacity: 83,818



FIVE-YEAR WINS TREND

| | | | | |
|------|------|------|------|------|
| 3 | 7 | 10 | 4 | 6 |
| 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 |

PRESEASON RANK:

3

Head coach: Mike Shula, 3rd (10-15) Career Record: 10-15

Assistant coaches: Joe Kines (def. coord./LBs), Dave Rader (off. coord./QB), Chris Ball (secondary), Bob Connelly (off. line), Charlie Harbison (WRs), Paul Randolph (def. ends), Dave Ungerer (special teams/TEs), Sparky Woods (RBs), Buddy Wyatt (def. line)



KEN DARBY, TB

Fragile Tide—long on talent, short on numbers—must walk a fine line this season to contend

You can't say Mike Shula hasn't learned his lesson.

In his first two years as coach at Alabama, the former Crimson Tide quarterback was reduced both times to fielding his third-string quarterback. This spring, he had no interest in gambling with senior Brodie Croyle's health.

The result: Croyle didn't take a single snap all spring.

"He could have gone through all the spring drills," Shula says, "but I didn't want to take a chance on him getting hit. We don't need Brodie 100 percent for spring. We need him 100 percent for fall practice."

A cynic would say Shula, 10-15 his first two seasons, was being too cautious with Croyle, who completed just 44 of 66 passes for 534 yards and six touchdowns in three games last season. But a realist might say the coach had enough other injuries to worry about.

Tailback Ken Darby, who rushed for 1,062 yards and eight TDs despite breaking his pelvis Nov. 13 at LSU, also didn't practice all spring. He tried to play in Bama's 20-16 loss to Minnesota in the Music City Bowl and ended up requiring hernia surgery. The only scholarship tailback to finish the spring was sophomore Aaron Johns. Fullback Tim Castille, who was also injured last season, also sat out the spring. His backup, Le'Ron McClain, practiced but was recovering from an ankle injury.

Alabama's top six receivers return, led by starting wideouts Tyrone Prothro (25 catches, 347 yards) and Matt Caddell (17, 331). Keith Brown and D.J. Hall (17 catches each, 295 and 186 yards, respectively, each a TD) will help the Tide go four deep.

The offensive line is a question mark, where three starters had to be replaced. Of particular concern were the guard positions, where redshirt freshman right guard B.J. Stabler missed the spring recovering from offseason surgery. Antoine Caldwell, another redshirt freshman, will probably start at left.



TYRONE PROTHRO, WR

Senior J.B. Closner starts at center, while junior Kyle Tatum is at right tackle. Freshman redshirt Chris Capps had back problems in the spring and was trying to hold onto the job at left tackle.

Alabama ranked first or second in the SEC in scoring, passing and total defense last season, and defense should again be a strength.

Senior Rudy Griffin and junior

Jeremy Clark return to man the defensive tackle positions, though both

were hurt during the spring. Wallace Gilberry, an emerging force at left end, had 6.5 sacks among 13 tackles for loss as a freshman, both team highs. Junior Chris Harris is the starter at right end going into the fall but should expect competition from the likes of senior Mark Anderson.

The linebacker corps should again be strong. Senior DeMeco Ryans, the top returning tackler with 78 stops last year, returns at the strongside spot next to middle linebacker Freddie Roach (57 tackles, nine for loss). Junior Juwan Simpson replaces Cornelius Wortham at weakside linebacker. Simpson changed his last name from Garth after the Auburn game, deciding to take the surname of his late father.

The secondary returns intact with seniors Anthony Madison, Roman Harper and Charlie Peprah at right corner, free and strong safety, respectively. Junior Ramzee Robinson returns at left corner. However, sophomore Simeon Castille had an eye-popping spring after playing nickel back last season. It won't be a surprise if he displaces one of the four starters this fall.

Kicking, typically an Alabama strong point, was an unsettling unknown commodity leaving spring practice. Sophomore Jamie Christensen and freshman C.J. Rhody were battling to replace placekicker Brian Bostick.

At punter, senior Jeremy Schatz is the leader to replace Bo Freeland, but if a walk-on walks into fall practice with a strong leg, he could easily win the job. ■

2005 SCHEDULE

| DATE | OPPONENT | '04 RESULT |
|-------|------------------------|------------|
| S. 3 | Middle Tennessee State | |
| S. 10 | Southern Miss | 27-3 |
| S. 17 | @SOUTH CAROLINA | 3-20 |
| S. 24 | Arkansas | 10-27 |
| O. 1 | Florida | |
| O. 15 | @MISSISSIPPI | 28-7 |
| O. 22 | Tennessee | 13-17 |
| O. 29 | Utah State | 48-17 |
| N. 5 | @MISSISSIPPI STATE | 30-14 |
| N. 12 | LSU | 10-26 |
| N. 19 | @AUBURN | 13-21 |

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 16
Lettermen returning/lost: 43/19

OFFENSE

| | | |
|----|----|----------------------------------|
| QB | 12 | Brodie Croyle (6-3, 205, Sr.) |
| FB | 19 | Tim Castille (5-11, 230, Jr.) |
| TB | 34 | Ken Darby (5-11, 205, Jr.) |
| LT | 72 | Chris Capps (6-5, 293, So.) |
| LG | 59 | Antoine Caldwell (6-3, 281, Fr.) |
| C | 74 | J.B. Closner (6-4, 290, Sr.) |
| RG | 61 | B.J. Stabler (6-4, 292, r-Fr.) |
| RT | 58 | Kyle Tatum (6-7, 298, Jr.) |
| TE | 89 | Nick Walker (6-5, 238, Fr.) |
| WR | 11 | Matt Caddell (6-0, 181, So.) |
| WR | 4 | Tyrone Prothro (5-8, 176, Jr.) |

DEFENSE

| | | |
|-----|----|----------------------------------|
| LE | 92 | Wallace Gilberry (6-2, 251, So.) |
| DT | 99 | Jeremy Clark (6-3, 296, Jr.) |
| DT | 90 | Rudy Griffin (6-0, 286, Sr.) |
| RE | 47 | Mark Anderson (6-5, 253, Sr.) |
| WLB | 42 | Juwan Simpson (6-2, 220, Jr.) |
| MLB | 8 | Freddie Roach (6-2, 239, Sr.) |
| SLB | 35 | DeMeco Ryans (6-2, 232, Sr.) |
| LCB | 17 | Ramzee Robinson (5-10, 192, Jr.) |
| RCB | 9 | Anthony Madison (5-9, 180, Sr.) |
| FS | 41 | Roman Harper (6-1, 197, Sr.) |
| SS | 26 | Charlie Peprah (5-11, 193, Sr.) |

SPECIALISTS

| | | |
|----|----|-----------------------------------|
| PK | 86 | Jamie Christensen (6-0, 170, So.) |
| P | 25 | Jeremy Schatz (5-7, 151, Jr.) |

RATING THE RECRUITS

| | | |
|----|------------------------|--|
| 1. | Chris Keys, DB | <i>One of the nation's top incoming safeties (7 INTs).</i> |
| 2. | Mike Ford, RB | <i>Class 5A Player of the Year led Fla. in rush yards.</i> |
| 3. | Roy Upchurch, RB | <i>Floridian rushed for 2,548 yards, 27 TDs last year.</i> |
| 4. | Lorenzo Washington, DL | <i>Hargrave Military product one of Ga.'s best in '03.</i> |
| 5. | Brandon Fanney, DL | <i>Hargrave Military teammate of Washington's.</i> |



ARKANSAS

RAZORBACKS

FAYETTEVILLE, ARK.

2004 Record: 5-6 overall, 3-5 SEC

Stadium: Donald W. Reynolds Razorback Stadium

Turf: Grass

Official athletic Web site: www.hogwired.com

Capacity: 72,000

PRESEASON RANK:

FIVE-YEAR WINS TREND

4

6 7 9 9 5
2000 2001 2002 2003 2004

Head coach: Houston Nutt, 8th Year (53-33) Career Record: 89-55
 Assistant coaches: Bobby Allen (secondary), Clifton Ealy (TEs), Mike Markson (off./line/running game coord.), Danny Nutt (RBs), Reggie Herring (def. coord./LBS), Tracy Rocker (def. line), Chris Vaughn (safeties/recruiting coord.), James Shibe (WRs/specialists), Roy Wittke (QBs/passing game coord.)



MARCUS MONK, WR

2005 SCHEDULE

| DATE | OPPONENT | '04 RESULT |
|-------|-------------------|------------|
| S. 3 | SMS | |
| S. 10 | Vanderbilt | |
| S. 17 | @USC | |
| S. 24 | @ALABAMA | 27-10 |
| O. 8 | Louisiana-Monroe | 49-20 |
| O. 15 | Auburn | 20-38 |
| O. 22 | @GEORGIA | 14-20 |
| N. 5 | South Carolina | 32-35 |
| N. 12 | @MISSISSIPPI | 35-3 |
| N. 19 | Mississippi State | 24-21 |
| N. 26 | @LSU | 14-43 |

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 18
 Lettermen returning/lost: 49/17

OFFENSE

| | |
|----|--------------------------------------|
| QB | 18 Robert Johnson (6-2, 212, So.) |
| FB | 47 Brandon Kennedy (5-11, 238, Sr.) |
| TB | 26 De'Arrius Howard (6-0, 228, Sr.) |
| LT | 66 Tony Ugoh (6-5, 303, Sr.) |
| LG | 74 Stephen Parker (6-4, 308, Jr.) |
| C | 70 Kyle Roper (6-3, 291, Sr.) |
| RG | 61 Robert Felton (6-4, 322, So.) |
| RT | 69 Zac Tubbs (6-6, 358, Sr.) |
| TE | 80 Mason Templeton (6-7, 258, So.) |
| FL | 16 Cedric Washington (6-0, 191, Jr.) |
| SE | 85 Marcus Monk (6-6, 224, So.) |

DEFENSE

| | |
|-----|---|
| LE | 23 Desmond Sims (6-3, 228, Jr.) |
| LT | 87 Ernest Mitchell (6-2, 297, r-Fr.) |
| RT | 55 Marcus Harrison (6-3, 300, So.) |
| RE | 83 Anthony Brown (6-6, 223, r-Jr.) |
| WLB | 24 Sam Olajabutu (5-9, 227, Sr.) |
| MLB | 30 Weston Dacus (6-2, 235, So.) |
| SLB | 27 Pierre Brown (6-0, 227, Sr.) |
| LCB | 16 Matteringal Richardson (6-0, 189, So.) |
| RCB | 4 Darius Vinnett (5-9, 170, Sr.) |
| FS | 6 Randy Kelly (6-0, 188, Jr.) |
| SS | 31 Vickel Vaughn (6-0, 204, Sr.) |

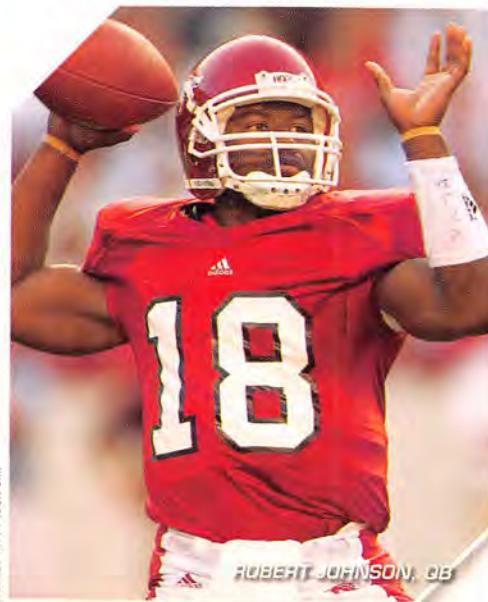
SPECIALISTS

| | |
|----|-----------------------------------|
| PK | 55 Chris Balseiro (6-1, 215, Sr.) |
| P | 40 Jeremy Davis (5-9, 200, So.) |

RATING THE RECRUITS

1. Darren McFadden, RB
The only Parade All-American from Arkansas.
2. Marcus Shavers, DE
One of the nation's best DEs; 9 sacks as a senior.
3. Felix Jones, RB
Tulsa area Player of the Year had 41 TDs in '04.
4. Tyrell Graham, LB
Greater Houston Class 4A Defensive MVP.
5. Reggie Fish, ATH
Could help Arkansas immediately in return game.

WESLEY HITT / ICON SMI



ROBERT JOHNSON, QB

MISSISSIPPI STATE

BULLDOGS



04 Record: 3-8 overall, 2-6 SEC
Official athletic Web site: www.mstateathletics.com

When the pain in his leg became so great to let him sleep at night, Mississippi State coach Sylvester Croom finally relented and agreed to a partial knee replacement in the offseason.

There is no procedure to take away the pain of what could be a long, difficult season in Starkville.

Even with their 3-8 record last season, their first under Croom, the Bulldogs surpassed some expectations, especially with their 38-31 upset of Florida.

But since the end of last season, steady stream of players has been leaving the team. Left to choose between Croom's way and the highway, 15 chose the latter. Two other players had to quit for medical reasons. Quality depth at many positions is practically nonexistent.

"I expected that," Croom says of the player attrition. "Most of them have been disciplinary reasons or thought our philosophy wasn't what they wanted to do. These guys weren't recruited to be part of this philosophy. They chose not to remain and I respect that. We will just move on."

Quarterback Omarr Conner has grown into his position after throwing for 1,224 yards and six touchdowns last season. The problem is none of his backups have even attempted a pass in a live game.

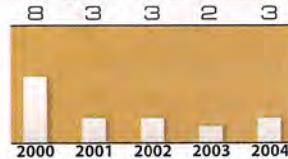
Tailback Jerious Norwood is one of the SEC's best, having rushed for 1,050 yards and seven TDs last season.

He will struggle to gain yards, however, behind a line that lost three starters and was riddled by injuries during the spring to right tackle James Cochran, backup left guard Johnny Wadley and reserve right tackle James Redmond. Center Chris McNeil, a senior, is the best of the bunch.

The defense was weakened by the defection of safety Darren Williams, but will still be the relative strength of this team. Defensive linemen Michael Heard had a strong spring, as did junior Deljuan Robinson, who overcame open heart surgery coming out of high school and his mother's death in a car wreck last year to earn a starting spot.

Several freshmen could quickly fill starting roles, such as Derek Pegues at right cornerback opposite senior Kevin Dockery.

FIVE-YEAR WINS TREND



2005 SCHEDULE

| DATE | OPPONENT | '04 RESULT |
|-------|--------------|------------|
| S. 3 | Murray State | |
| S. 10 | @AUBURN | 14-43 |
| S. 17 | @TULANE | 28-7 |
| S. 24 | Georgia | |
| O. 1 | LSU | 0-51 |
| O. 8 | @FLORIDA | 38-31 |
| O. 22 | Houston | |
| O. 29 | @KENTUCKY | 22-7 |
| N. 5 | Alabama | 14-30 |
| N. 19 | @ARKANSAS | 21-24 |
| N. 26 | Mississippi | 3-20 |

Head coach: Sylvester Croom, 2nd Year (3-8)

Career Record: 3-8

Stadium: Davis Wade Stadium

Turf: Grass

Capacity: 55,082

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 16
 Lettermen returning/lost: 46/20

OFFENSE

| | |
|-----------|---------------------------------------|
| QB | 14 Omarr Conner (6-0, 215, Jr.) |
| FB | 48 Desmond Sherrod (6-3, 236, So.) |
| HB | 12 Jerious Norwood (6-0, 202, Sr.) |
| LT | 71 James Redmond (6-7, 305, Jr.) |
| LG | 55 Brian Anderson (6-5, 303, Jr.) |
| C | 50 Chris McNeil (6-3, 294, Sr.) |
| RG | 53 Anthony Strauder (6-4, 300, r-Fr.) |
| RT | 66 James Cochran (6-5, 293, Jr.) |
| TE | 82 Jason Husband (6-2, 208, So.) |
| WR | 83 Tee Milons (5-9, 165, Sr.) |
| WR | 81 Will Prosser (6-3, 205, Jr.) |

DEFENSE

| | |
|------------|--------------------------------------|
| LE | 54 Titus Brown (6-3, 234, So.) |
| NT | 94 Andrew Powell (6-2, 304, Jr.) |
| T | 98 Deljuan Robinson (6-4, 295, Jr.) |
| RE | 58 Michael Heard (6-2, 256, Jr.) |
| WLB | 29 Clarence McDougal (6-1, 213, Sr.) |
| MLB | 2 Quinton Culberson (6-0, 228, Jr.) |
| SLB | 5 Gabe O'Neal (6-2, 219, So.) |
| LCB | 30 Kevin Dockery (5-10, 185, Sr.) |
| RCB | 23 David Heard (5-11, 190, Jr.) |
| FS | 34 Jeramie Johnson (6-0, 207, Jr.) |
| SS | 6 Mario Bobo (6-1, 170, So.) |

SPECIALISTS

| | |
|-----------|-------------------------------------|
| PK | 46 Keith Andrews (6-0, 200, Jr.) |
| P | 38 Brooks Crabtree (5-10, 174, Sr.) |

MISSISSIPPI

REBELS



2004 Record: 4-7 overall, 3-5 SEC
Official athletic Web site: www.olemisssports.com

When Ole Miss and coach David Cutcliffe decided to part ways after seven mostly successful seasons—culminated by last year's shocking slip to 4-7, the Rebels' fewest wins since 1994—the school decided to do a 180.

It hired the anti-Cutcliffe, Ed Orgeron, an adrenalin-infused Cajun from south Louisiana by way of Southern California. Where, by the way, he helped the Trojans to back-to-back national championships as recruiting coordinator and defensive line coach.

The day he was introduced in Oxford, Orgeron says he awoke and told his wife, Kelly, he felt like he was home. He soon started sounding like a local, saying what the locals wanted to hear.

"You need me to go speak somewhere? I will do it. You want to have a pep rally in The Grove this afternoon? Let's go do it," Orgeron says.

"All of these things lead to one main goal—building a top-of-the-line program so we can go win championships."

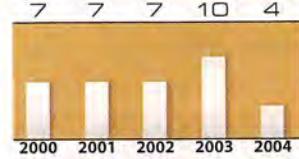
Despite his passion, there were problems immediately for Orgeron. Linebackers coach Charlie Camp resigned Jan. 29, a day after being arrested for driving under the influence. In March, defensive line coach Joe Cullen was dismissed after being arrested for public drunkenness.

On the practice field the news was mostly good. Senior Micheal Spurlock held off junior Ethan Flatt (one of five returning offensive starters) and sophomore Robert Lane for the starting quarterback job, but senior Vashon Pearson (807 yards rushing, 3 TDs in 2004) wasn't as successful keeping the ball out of junior Jamal Pittman's hands. All will have to operate behind a rather suspect offensive line.

Seven starters return on defense, among them senior Kelvin Robinson, who moved from strong safety to weakside linebacker. Former walk-on Dontae Reed beat out Gary Pack for an outside linebacker spot, while senior McKinley Boykin returns to defensive tackle after an offseason filled with off-the-field problems and arthroscopic knee surgery.

Despite all the upheaval, the Rebels have a schedule conducive to six or seven wins and a bowl berth, if not their first SEC title since 1963. Then we'll really see how enthusiastic Orgeron can be.

FIVE-YEAR WINS TREND



2005 SCHEDULE

| DATE | OPPONENT | '04 RESULT |
|-------|--------------------|------------|
| S. 5 | @MEMPHIS | 13-20 |
| S. 17 | @VANDERBILT | 26-23 (OT) |
| S. 24 | Wyoming | 32-37 |
| O. 1 | @TENNESSEE | 17-21 |
| O. 8 | Citadel | |
| O. 15 | Alabama | 7-28 |
| O. 22 | Kentucky | |
| O. 29 | @AUBURN | 14-35 |
| N. 12 | Arkansas | 3-35 |
| N. 19 | LSU | 24-27 |
| N. 26 | @MISSISSIPPI STATE | 20-3 |

Head coach: Ed Orgeron,

1st Year (0-0)

Career Record: 0-0

Stadium: Vaught-Hemingway Stadium

Turf: Artificial

Capacity: 60,580

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 12
 Lettermen returning/lost: 42/29

OFFENSE

| | |
|-----------|--------------------------------------|
| QB | 16 Micheal Spurlock (5-11, 200, Sr.) |
| FB | 48 Jason Cook (6-0, 230, r-Fr.) |
| RB | 21 Jamal Pittman (6-2, 240, Jr.) |
| LT | 75 Bobby Harris (6-4, 310, Sr.) |
| LG | 50 Darryl Harris (6-3, 285, So.) |
| C | 65 Tony Bonds (6-4, 308, Sr.) |
| RG | 60 Thomas Eckers (6-2, 290, So.) |
| RT | 70 Tré Stallings (6-4, 317, Sr.) |
| TE | 88 Lawrence Lilly (6-4, 275, Jr.) |
| SE | 87 Mario Hill (6-1, 195, Sr.) |
| FL | 11 Mike Espy (6-0, 195, Sr.) |

DEFENSE

| | |
|------------|---------------------------------------|
| DE | 77 Jayme Mitchell (6-6, 285, Sr.) |
| NT | 72 Michael Bozeman (6-2, 290, Sr.) |
| DT | 68 McKinley Boykin (6-2, 285, Sr.) |
| DE | 95 Chris Bowers (6-2, 231, r-Fr.) |
| WLB | 38 Kelvin Robinson (6-1, 220, Sr.) |
| MLB | 49 Patrick Willis (6-2, 230, Jr.) |
| SLB | 46 Dontae Reed (6-2, 200, So.) |
| LBC | 9 Travis Johnson (6-1, 191, Sr.) |
| RCB | 3 Trumaine McBride (5-10, 180, Jr.) |
| FS | 20 Charles Clark (6-0, 195, Jr.) |
| SS | 13 Jamarca Sanford (5-10, 200, r-Fr.) |

SPECIALISTS

| | |
|-----------|-----------------------------------|
| PK | 17 Will Moseley (6-2, 189, r-Jr.) |
| P | 41 Hunter Bray (6-1, 200, Jr.) |



Games to watch:

- >> **Southern California at Hawaii**, Sept. 3
All eyes will be focused on the two-time defending national champions, who open in Honolulu.
- >> **Boise State at Georgia**, Sept. 3
The Broncos look to prove they are a Top 10 team.
- >> **San Jose State at Illinois**, Sept. 10
New coach Dick Tomey, who ranks eighth in victories among Division I-A coaches, faces his first real test.

official conference website:
www.wacsports.com

Street & Smith's ALL-CONFERENCE

Offense

| | |
|----|---|
| QB | Jared Zabransky , Jr., Boise St. |
| RB | Bryson Sumlin , Sr., Fresno St. |
| RB | Lee Marks , Sr., Boise State |
| DL | Daryn Colledge , Sr., Boise State |
| DL | Aaron Lips , Sr., Louisiana Tech |
| DL | Samson Seale , Jr., Hawaii |
| DL | Kyle Young , Jr., Fresno State |
| DL | Nick Cole , Sr., New Mexico St. |
| WR | Rufus Skillern , Sr., San Jose St. |
| WR | Nichiren Flowers , Sr., Nevada |
| TE | Luke Smith-Anderson , Idaho |
| PK | Mike Lingua , Jr., Fresno State |

Defense

| | |
|----|---|
| DL | Andrew Browning , Jr., Boise St. |
| DL | Garret McIntyre , Sr., Fresno St. |
| DL | Mella Purcell , Sr., Hawaii |
| LB | Jimmy Cottrell , Sr., New Mexico St. |
| LB | Colt Snyder , Sr., Idaho |
| LB | Byron Santiago , Sr., Louisiana Tech |
| LB | Korey Hall , Jr., Boise State |
| DB | Josh Powell , Jr., San Jose State |
| DB | Richard Marshall , Jr., Fresno St. |
| DB | Leonard Peters , Sr., Hawaii |
| DB | Marcus McCauley , Jr., Fresno St. |
| P | Kyle Stringer , Jr., Boise State |



Rating the recruits

1. Boise State

The Broncos landed four WRs and two TEs, including WR Jeremy Childs.

2. Fresno State

Offensive linemen Joe Bernardi (6-2, 265 lbs) was one of the top prospects on the West Coast.

3. Hawaii

The Warriors added bulk with four defensive linemen and four offensive linemen.

4. Louisiana Tech

Following the loss of Ryan Moats to the NFL, the Bulldogs added three prep RBs.

5. Nevada

The first recruiting class under Chris Ault included a combined seven RBs and WRs.

6. New Mexico State

First class under Hal Mumme includes 18 high school seniors, five JC transfers.

7. Idaho

Fills needs with seven junior-college players, including three WRs.

8. Utah State

Signed 21 high school seniors, the most since 2001.

9. San Jose State

Late hiring of Dick Tomey affected recruiting; the Spartans signed 17 players.

Rating the coaches

Best strategist

Dan Hawkins, Boise State

Best recruiter

Pat Hill, Fresno State

Coach on the spot

Jack Bicknell, Louisiana Tech

Don't be surprised if ...

Fresno State closes the gap with Boise State. The Bulldogs ended the season with a six-game winning streak, including a win over nationally ranked Virginia in the MPC Computers Bowl, averaging 52.8 points per game. With 17 starters returning, the Bulldogs could end Boise State's streak of three consecutive WAC titles.

One man's opinion

"If you're going to be in this conference, you better be competitive and willing to make a commitment to excellence or you're not going to compete well. Boise is clearly the class of the league. It's not close. But certainly Fresno is right there. Many other schools aspire to get there and I think many can."

—new San Jose State coach Dick Tomey

BOISE STATE

BRONCOS



BOISE, IDAHO

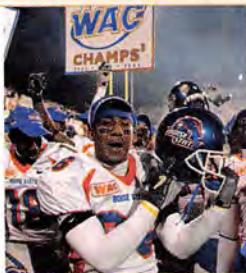
2004 Record: 11-1 overall, 8-0 WAC (lost to Louisville in the Liberty Bowl, 44-40)

Stadium: Bronco Stadium

Official athletic Web site: www.broncosports.com

Turf: Artificial

Capacity: 30,000



FIVE-YEAR WINS TREND

10 8 12 13 11
2000 2001 2002 2003 2004

PRESEASON RANK:

1

Head coach: Dan Hawkins, 5th Year (44-6) Career Record: 84-17-1

Assistant coaches: Romeo Bandison (DL), Ron Collins (def. coord./LBs), Bryan Harbin (TEs), Chris Petersen (off. coord./QBs), Kent Riddle (RBs/STs), Steve Smythe (WRs), Chris Strausser (asst. head coach/off. line), Robert Tucker (recruiting coord./safeties), Marcel Yates (CBS)



JARED ZABRANSKY QB

Boise State set to return star QB Zabransky and most of its best players to 'traditional' blue turf of Bronco Stadium

No one can argue that Boise State has established itself as one of the top programs in the nation, despite competing in a mid-major conference.

Under coach Dan Hawkins, Boise State has won 25 consecutive games on the blue turf at Bronco Stadium, the longest home-winning streak in the nation, while making life miserable for its conference opponents. Boise State has won three WAC titles in a row and hasn't lost a WAC game since Nov. 3, 2001.

Making matters worse for Boise State's conference opponents is that the Broncos, who went undefeated during the regular season, remain mostly intact. Boise State returns 17 starters, eight on both sides of the ball, including their starting backfield.

Boise State won't waste any time finding out where they sit on the national landscape: the Broncos open at Georgia in a game televised on ESPN. From there, the Broncos play at Oregon State. Assuming Boise State runs the table again in the WAC, and beats Georgia and Oregon State, it will be interesting to see if that's enough to catapult the Broncos into a BCS game.

Any WAC team hoping to knock off Boise State better catch them at home: the Broncos showed a propensity to play close games on the road. Boise State edged Tulsa 45-42 last season by scoring 10 points in the final 1:24; against last-place San Jose State, the Broncos won 56-49 in double-overtime after usually reliable SJSU kicker Jeff Carr had a 30-yard game-winning field goal blocked with 1:07 remaining.

In conference games at home, Boise State plays like a well-oiled machine: its closest game at Bronco Stadium last season was a 17-point victory over Fresno State.

It's a scary thought, but Boise State might be even better this season.

Junior quarterback Jared Zabransky made quite a splash last season as the unproven successor to

Ryan Dinwiddie and led the WAC in quarterback efficiency rating (147.0). Zabransky, who rushed for 13 touchdowns and passed for 16 more last season and was named a "Player to Watch" by the Touchdown Club of Columbus, returns to lead an offense that ranked second in the nation by averaging 48.9 points per game.

Although Zabransky lost his favorite target in T.J. Acree (55 catches, 947 yards, eight touchdowns), the Broncos might have their deepest group of wideouts ever.

Junior Drisan James caught 40 passes for 568 yards last season and should emerge as the go-to receiver.

From there, the Broncos have three seniors and two juniors who are all battling for starting jobs.

Senior running back Lee Marks is poised for a 1,000-yard season after gaining 968 yards in 189 carries and two touchdowns last season. The main reason Marks didn't make more trips into the end zone is junior Jon Helmandollar (5-11, 227), a bruising runner who emerged as the goal-line specialist and scored 14 touchdowns.

The offensive line, which returns three starters and a fourth player who shared starting duties, could be the strength of Boise State's offense. Senior All-America candidate Daryn Colledge (6-5, 298) has started all 39 games in his career at left tackle, establishing himself as one of the best in the country.

Although the Broncos lost All-WAC linebacker Andy Avalos, they return another all-conference selection in Korey Hall, who finished second on the team in tackles.

The biggest question mark might be in the secondary, where the Broncos lost a pair of All-WAC selections in Gabe Franklin and Chris Carr. Boise State showed its pass defense was vulnerable last season, ranking 99th in the country and gave up big plays in the passing game against San Jose State and Tulsa. **WAC**



DRISAN JAMES, WR

2005 SCHEDULE

| DATE | OPPONENT | '04 RESULT |
|-------|------------------|--------------|
| S. 3 | @GEORGIA | |
| S. 10 | @OREGON STATE | 53-34 |
| S. 21 | Bowling Green | |
| O. 1 | @HAWAII | 69-3 |
| O. 8 | Portland State | |
| O. 15 | San Jose State | 56-49 (2 OT) |
| O. 22 | @UTAH STATE | |
| O. 29 | Nevada | 58-21 |
| N. 5 | New Mexico State | |
| N. 12 | @FRESNO STATE | 33-16 |
| N. 19 | Idaho | 65-7 |
| N. 26 | @LOUISIANA TECH | 55-14 |

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 17
Lettermen returning/lost: 42/13

OFFENSE

| | |
|----|-----------------------------------|
| QB | 5 Jared Zabransky (6-2, 203, Jr.) |
| FB | 34 Brad Lau (5-11, 255, Jr.) |
| RB | 17 Lee Marks (5-7, 181, Sr.) |
| LT | 73 Daryn Colledge (6-5, 298, Sr.) |
| LG | 66 Tad Miller (6-4, 303, So.) |
| C | 50 Joe Weigand (6-1, 286, Jr.) |
| RG | 64 Pete Cavender (6-2, 289, So.) |
| RT | 54 Jeff Cavender (6-2, 287, So.) |
| TE | 91 Derek Schouman (6-2, 211, Jr.) |
| WR | 11 Drisan James (5-11, 187, Jr.) |
| WR | 7 Josh Smith (5-11, 182, Sr.) |

DEFENSE

| | |
|-----|-------------------------------------|
| LE | 74 Mike Dominguez (6-2, 251, Jr.) |
| LT | 99 Alex Guerrero (6-1, 296, Sr.) |
| RT | 57 Andrew Browning (6-0, 278, Jr.) |
| RE | 96 Mike G. Williams (6-3, 245, Jr.) |
| WLB | 55 Chris Barrios (5-11, 220, Jr.) |
| MLB | 25 Korey Hall (6-1, 231, Jr.) |
| SLB | 31 Colt Brooks (6-1, 209, Jr.) |
| CB | 18 Gerald Alexander (6-0, 197, Jr.) |
| CB | 23 Quinton Jones (5-9, 186, Jr.) |
| FS | 27 Cam Hall (6-1, 200, Jr.) |
| ROV | 37 Austin Smith (5-9, 170, So.) |

SPECIALISTS

| | |
|----|------------------------------------|
| PK | 20 Jameson Davis (5-9, 191, r-Fr.) |
| P | 42 Kyle Stringer (5-8, 190, Jr.) |



PAUL PINEGAR, QB



FRESNO STATE

BULLDOGS

2004 Record: 9-3 overall, 5-3 WAC (beat Virginia in the MPC Computers Bowl, 37-34)
 Stadium: Bulldog Stadium
 Official athletic Web site: www.gobulldogs.com

Turf: Grass

Capacity: 41,031

PRESEASON RANK:

FIVE-YEAR WINS TREND

2

7 11 9 9 9

2000 2001 2002 2003 2004

Head coach: Pat Hill, 9th Year (64-38) Career Record: 64-38

Assistant coaches: John Baxter (assoc. head coach/WRs/special teams), Dan Brown (def. coord.), Kerry Locklin (def. line), Frank Cignetti (off. coord./OBs), John Settle (RBs), Tim Simons (TEs), Mark Weber (off. line), Randy Stewart (secondary), Tom Mason (LBs)



2005 SCHEDULE

| DATE | OPPONENT | '04 RESULT |
|-------|-------------------|------------|
| S. 10 | Weber State | |
| S. 17 | @OREGON | |
| S. 27 | Toledo | |
| O. 8 | @NEW MEXICO STATE | |
| O. 15 | Utah State | |
| O. 22 | @IDAHO | |
| O. 29 | @HAWAII | 70-14 |
| N. 5 | San Jose State | 62-28 |
| N. 12 | Boise State | 16-33 |
| N. 19 | @USC | |
| N. 26 | @NEVADA | 54-17 |
| D. 3 | Louisiana Tech | 21-28 |

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 17
 Lettermen returning/lost: 51/15

OFFENSE

| | |
|----|------------------------------------|
| QB | 13 Paul Pinegar (6-4, 220, Sr.) |
| FB | 26 Roshon Vercher (5-11, 245, Jr.) |
| TB | 34 Bryson Sumlin (5-10, 200, Sr.) |
| LT | 50 Dartangon Shack (6-2, 300, Jr.) |
| LG | 62 Cole Popovich (6-2, 275, r-Fr.) |
| C | 59 Kyle Young (6-5, 330, Jr.) |
| RG | 77 Ryan Wendell (6-2, 260, So.) |
| RT | 79 Chris Denman (6-6, 260, Jr.) |
| TE | 88 Jesus Tapia (6-6, 215, So.) |
| WR | 84 Joe Fernandez (5-10, 175, Jr.) |
| WR | 5 Adam Jennings (5-10, 175, Jr.) |

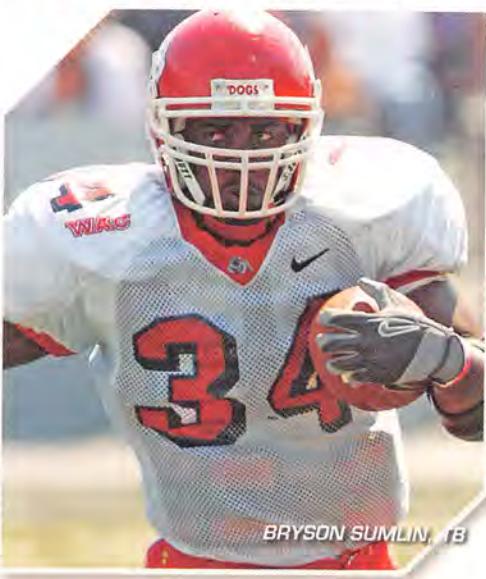
DEFENSE

| | |
|-----|--------------------------------------|
| DE | 92 Marlon Brisco (6-3, 240, Jr.) |
| NT | 97 Jason Shirley (6-5, 295, So.) |
| DT | 71 Garrett McIntyre (6-3, 260, Sr.) |
| DE | 11 Tyler Clutts (6-2, 200, So.) |
| OLB | 31 Marcus Riley (6-0, 190, So.) |
| MLB | 51 Dwayne Andrews (6-0, 240, Jr.) |
| OLB | 10 Alan Goodwin (6-2, 220, Jr.) |
| CB | 24 Richard Marshall (5-11, 170, Jr.) |
| CB | 17 Marcus McCauley (6-1, 190, Jr.) |
| FS | 36 Tyrone Culver (6-1, 200, Sr.) |
| SS | 27 Awan Diles (5-9, 180, Sr.) |

SPECIALISTS

| | |
|----|----------------------------------|
| PK | 39 Clint Stitser (6-0, 197, So.) |
| P | 37 Mike Lingua (6-0, 190, Jr.) |

PETER AIKEN / WIRE IMAGE.COM



BRYSON SUMLIN, LB

On the season, the Bulldogs ranked fifth in the nation in scoring offense.

All the pieces are in place to duplicate that success, as the Bulldogs return nine starters on offense.

Quarterback Paul Pinegar is a three-year starter and owns a 24-8 record, including a 6-3 mark against BCS teams. During Fresno State's final six games, Pinegar threw for 1,184 yards and 17 touchdowns with just three interceptions. In the bowl victory over the Cavaliers, Pinegar completed 23 of 36 passes for 235 yards and five touchdowns.

As good as the passing game is, the Bulldogs' ground attack might be better. Fresno State returns one of the best tandems in the nation and could boast two 1,000-yard rushers by the season's end. Senior Bryson Sumlin (5-10, 200) became the 12th running back in school history to rush for more than 1,000 yards last season and has scored 25 touchdowns in the last two seasons. Wendell Mathis rushed for 995 yards and 12 touchdowns in 146 carries, averaging 6.8 yards per carry.

The Bulldogs also return their leading receivers, including junior Joe Fernandez, the son of former Oakland Raider Mervyn Fernandez, who caught a team-high 38 passes for 546 yards and four touchdowns.

Fresno State led the WAC in scoring defense and total defense and should be just as solid this season. The Bulldogs return seven starters, including tackle Garrett McIntyre, a preseason favorite to win the conference's Defensive Player of the Year. McIntyre (6-3, 260) has 18 career sacks and 30 tackles for losses.

There is also experience at linebacker and defensive back, led by middle linebacker Dwayne Andrews, the team's leading tackler last season, and cornerback Richard Marshall, a second-team All-WAC pick.

For Fresno State to join Boise State as a top-10 team, the Bulldogs need to avoid the midseason slumps that have plagued them the last two years.

In 2003, the Bulldogs started the season 3-4 before winning six of their last seven games, including a bowl game over UCLA. Last season, Fresno State won its first three games before going on a three-game slide, losing to Louisiana Tech, Texas El-Paso and Boise State. The Bulldogs regrouped by running off six wins in a row.

If they beat the teams on the schedule they're supposed to, and knock off Boise State or USC, Fresno State could be in contention for a top bowl game. **WAC**

NEVADA

WOLF PACK

RENO, NEV.

2004 Record: 5-7 overall, 3-5 WAC

Stadium: Mackay Stadium

Official athletic Web site: www.nevadowolfpack.com

Turf: Artificial

Capacity: 31,900



FIVE-YEAR WINS TREND

| | | | | |
|------|------|------|------|------|
| 2 | 3 | 5 | 6 | 5 |
| 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 |

PRESEASON RANK:

3

Head coach: Chris Ault, 21st Year (168-70-1) **Career Record:** 168-70-1
Assistant coaches: Ken Wilson (asst. head coach/LBs), Chris Klenakis (off. coord./OL), Barry Sacks (co-def. coord./DEs), Tim DeRuyter (co-def. coord./secondary), Scott Baumgartner (QBs/STs), Marty Long (DTs), Jim Mastro (RBs), Kim McCloud (WRs), Cameron Norcross (TEs)

Flowers blooms under radar in Reno as Wolf Pack offense is set to blossom

Receiver Nichiren Flowers might be the best-kept secret in Division I-A football. At 6-foot-3 and 210 pounds, Flowers has the size, hands and athletic ability to become one of the nation's leading receivers.

Oh, wait, he already is.

Last season, Flowers ranked sixth in the nation in receptions (91) and 15th in receiving yards (1,126), but hasn't received the national attention of other receivers who posted lesser numbers.

If Flowers can boost his scoring output—he recorded six touchdowns last season—he could merit All-America consideration. And with maturation of junior quarterback Jeff Rowe, the Wolf Pack's passing game could really flourish this season, perhaps elevating them to a bowl game.

Rowe, a 6-5, 220-pound quarterback, was highly touted as a freshman and finally came into his own last season, throwing for 2,633 yards and 15 touchdowns.

If the Wolf Pack wants to avoid relying solely on its passing attack, they need to find a replacement for running back Chance Kretschmer. Senior B.J. Mitchell is poised to take the bulk of the carries, having rushed for 450 yards and seven touchdowns as a junior.

Rowe and company will be protected by a somewhat inexperienced front line that lost three starters and returns senior Adam Kiefer (6-4, 300 pounds) and junior Jimmy Wadhams (6-3, 285).

Defensively, the Wolf Pack finished in the middle of the pack in total defense and could improve that ranking with the emergence of Jeremy Engstrom. The 6-1, 235-pound sophomore linebacker was a second-team All-WAC selection after recording 97 tackles last year. Senior J.J. Milan, a defensive end who will be converted to linebacker this season, led the team in sacks (4.5) and was tied in tackles for loss with 10.5.

The Wolf Pack will have to overcome its reliance on underclassmen—60 percent of the roster is comprised of freshmen and

sophomores. Still, Nevada returns 15 starters, including eight on defense.

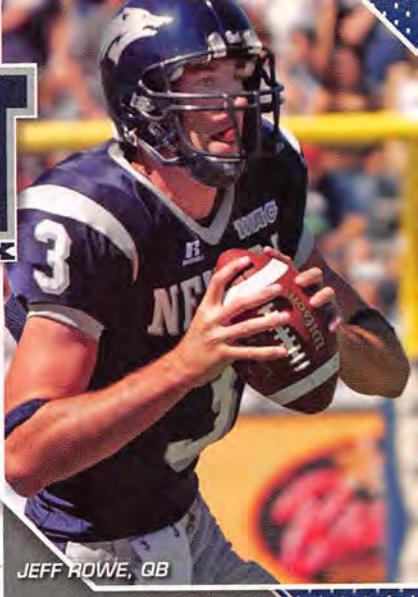
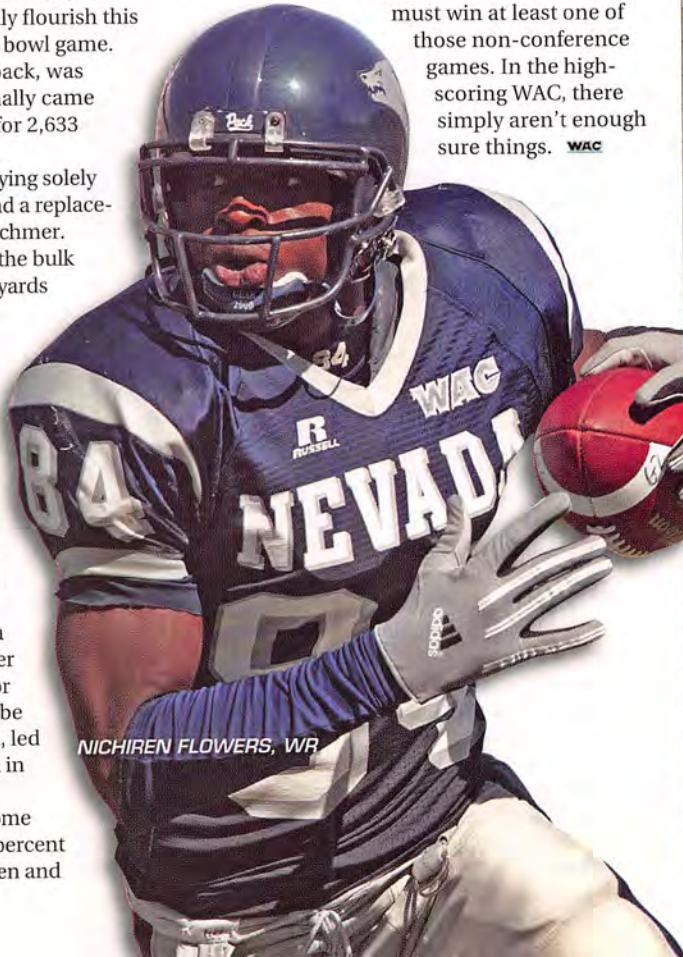
The players also have a year of experience playing under Chris Ault and his wide-open, one-back offense. Ault cleaned house during his first season, getting rid of players with bad attitudes or who didn't jibe with the direction of the program.

Now Ault, entering his 21st year as Nevada's coach (spread over two stints), believes the Wolf Pack are ready to become one of the conference's upper-echelon teams.

Nevada also beefed up its non-conference schedule, opening the season at home against Washington State and UNLV before a trip to Colorado State. Last season the Wolf Pack fattened up on Sacramento State and Buffalo before beginning conference play.

But for Nevada to be in bowl contention in December, the Wolf Pack

must win at least one of those non-conference games. In the high-scoring WAC, there simply aren't enough sure things. **WAC**



2005 SCHEDULE

| DATE | OPPONENT | '04 RESULT |
|-------|-------------------|------------|
| S. 9 | Washington State | |
| S. 17 | UNLV | 13-48 |
| S. 24 | @COLORADO STATE | |
| O. 1 | @SAN JOSE STATE | 42-24 |
| O. 8 | Idaho | |
| O. 15 | Louisiana Tech | 21-38 |
| O. 29 | @BOISE STATE | 21-58 |
| N. 5 | Hawaii | 26-48 |
| N. 12 | @NEW MEXICO STATE | |
| N. 19 | @UTAH STATE | |
| N. 26 | Fresno State | 17-54 |

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 15
 Lettermen returning/lost: 43/15

OFFENSE

| | |
|----|-------------------------------------|
| QB | 3 Jeff Rowe (6-5, 220, Jr.) |
| RB | 8 B.J. Mitchell (5-8, 205, Sr.) |
| ST | 68 Adam Kiefer (6-4, 300, Sr.) |
| SG | 70 Barrett Reznick (6-1, 280, Jr.) |
| C | 76 Jimmy Wadhams (6-3, 285, Jr.) |
| WG | 61 Dominic Green (6-3, 285, r-Fr.) |
| WT | 58 Tony Moll (6-4, 280, Sr.) |
| WR | 83 Anthony Pudewell (6-3, 240, Jr.) |
| WR | 5 Caleb Spencer (6-0, 180, Jr.) |
| WR | 89 Mike McCoy (6-0, 190, r-Fr.) |
| WR | 84 Nichiren Flowers (6-3, 210, Sr.) |

DEFENSE

| | |
|-----|--|
| DE | 93 Charles Wilson (6-4, 275, Jr.) |
| NT | 57 Matt Hines (6-1, 285, So.) |
| DE | 90 Craig Bailey (6-4, 260, Sr.) |
| BAN | 55 Selvasio Faupo (6-3, 220, Jr.) |
| WLB | 26 Roosevelt Cooks (5-10, 220, Sr.) |
| MLB | 44 Jeremy Engstrom (6-1, 235, So.) |
| SLB | 91 J.J. Milan (6-5, 265, Sr.) |
| CB | 35 Paul Pratt (5-10, 185, Jr.) |
| CB | 33 Kevin Stanley (6-0, 175, Sr.) |
| FS | 29 Roderick Stallings (5-10, 195, Jr.) |
| SS | 28 Nick Hawthorne (6-0, 200, Jr.) |

SPECIALISTS

| | |
|----|--------------------------------------|
| PK | 99 Brett Jaekle (6-2, 225, r-Fr.) |
| P | 69 Justin Bergendahl (6-2, 210, Sr.) |

WAC

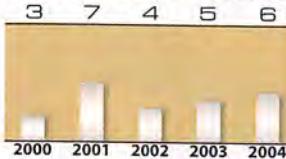
LOUISIANA TECH

BULLDOGS



2004 Record: 6-6 overall, 5-3 WAC
 Official athletic Web site: www.latechsports.com

FIVE-YEAR WINS TREND



2005 SCHEDULE

| DATE | OPPONENT | '04 RESULT |
|-------|------------------|------------|
| S. 10 | @FLORIDA | |
| S. 17 | @KANSAS | |
| O. 1 | New Mexico State | |
| O. 8 | Hawaii | 23-34 |
| O. 15 | @NEVADA | 38-21 |
| O. 22 | North Texas | |
| O. 29 | San Jose State | |
| N. 5 | @UTAH STATE | |
| N. 12 | @IDAHO | |
| N. 19 | Boise State | 14-55 |
| D. 3 | @FRESNO STATE | 28-21 |

Head coach: Jack Bicknell,
 7th Year (33-38)

Career Record: 33-38

Stadium: Joe Aillet Stadium

Turf: Grass

Capacity: 30,600

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 11
 Lettermen returning/lost: 45/25

OFFENSE

| | |
|----|-------------------------------------|
| QB | 13 Matt Kubik (6-3, 209, Sr.) |
| RB | 43 Mark Dillard (5-11, 205, So.) |
| LT | 73 Tyler Miller (6-7, 296, So.) |
| LG | 64 Aaron Lips (6-5, 317, Sr.) |
| C | 56 Marcus Stewart (6-3, 300, Sr.) |
| RG | 63 Ryan Considine (6-5, 290, So.) |
| RT | 78 Marcus Lindsey (6-7, 375, Jr.) |
| TE | 89 Anthony James (6-6, 259, Sr.) |
| WR | 7 Johnathan Holland (6-0, 186, Jr.) |
| WR | 82 Eric Newman (6-0, 190, Sr.) |
| WR | 6 Seneca Chambers (6-2, 175, Jr.) |

DEFENSE

| | |
|------|------------------------------------|
| DE | 98 Moquett Ruffins (6-5, 277, Sr.) |
| NT | 93 Ladarius Love (6-4, 330, Sr.) |
| DT | 85 Quarvay Winbush (6-5, 255, Sr.) |
| WLB | 8 Jeremy Hamilton (5-11, 218, Sr.) |
| MLB | 58 Brannon Jackson (6-2, 220, So.) |
| SLB | 42 Byron Santiago (6-2, 222, Sr.) |
| BUCK | 34 Barry Robertson (6-3, 240, Sr.) |
| CB | 25 Tramon Williams (6-0, 180, Sr.) |
| BC | 18 Delon Williams (6-1, 191, Sr.) |
| FS | 35 Dez Abrams (6-0, 186, Jr.) |
| SS | 31 Bo Cox (6-2, 200, Sr.) |

SPECIALISTS

| | |
|----|-----------------------------------|
| PK | 48 Danny Horwedel (6-2, 185, So.) |
| P | 41 Matt Butler (6-3, 215, So.) |

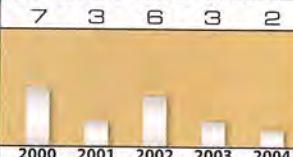
SAN JOSE STATE

SPARTANS



2004 Record: 2-9 overall, 1-7 WAC
 Official athletic Web site: www.sjsuspartans.com

FIVE-YEAR WINS TREND



2005 SCHEDULE

| DATE | OPPONENT | '04 RESULT |
|-------|--------------------|-------------|
| S. 3 | Eastern Washington | |
| S. 10 | @ILLINOIS | |
| S. 24 | @SAN DIEGO STATE | |
| O. 1 | Nevada | 24-42 |
| O. 8 | @UTAH STATE | |
| O. 15 | @BOISE STATE | 49-56 (20T) |
| O. 22 | Hawaii | 28-46 |
| O. 29 | @LOUISIANA TECH | |
| N. 5 | @FRESNO STATE | 28-62 |
| N. 19 | New Mexico State | |
| N. 26 | Idaho | |

Head coach: Dick Tomey,
 1st Year, (0-0)

Career Record: 158-110-7

Stadium: Spartan Stadium

Turf: Grass

Capacity: 31,218

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 14
 Lettermen returning/lost: 36/16

OFFENSE

| | |
|----|-------------------------------------|
| QB | 17 Adam Tafralis (6-1, 219, So.) |
| FB | 42 James T. Callier (6-0, 221, So.) |
| TB | 34 Yonus Davis (5-7, 169, So.) |
| LT | 77 Amadeo Novella (6-4, 305, Sr.) |
| LG | 62 Marcel Burrough (6-6, 349, Jr.) |
| C | 76 Matt Cantu (6-3, 290, Jr.) |
| RG | 63 John Booker (6-4, 300, So.) |
| RT | 71 John Toensfeldt (6-8, 290, Sr.) |
| TE | 82 Bryan Watje (6-3, 250, Sr.) |
| WR | 80 Rufus Skillern (6-1, 183, Sr.) |
| WR | 3 James Jones (6-1, 196, Jr.) |

DEFENSE

| | |
|----|-----------------------------------|
| DE | 54 Larnell Ransom (6-0, 253, Sr.) |
| DT | 69 Kinji Green (6-2, 275, Sr.) |
| DT | 98 Anthony Flores (6-4, 299, Sr.) |
| DE | 95 Justin James (6-5, 238, Sr.) |
| LB | 6 Bobby Godinez (5-11, 207, Sr.) |
| LB | 21 Eric Wilson (5-9, 202, Sr.) |
| LB | 35 Matt Castelo (5-10, 190, So.) |
| CB | 4 Trestin George (5-9, 178, Sr.) |
| CB | 20 Larry Collins (5-10, 181, Sr.) |
| S | 15 Brian Nunez (5-11, 176, Sr.) |
| S | 33 Josh Powell (6-3, 208, Sr.) |

SPECIALISTS

| | |
|----|------------------------------------|
| PK | 39 Bijan Shahmirza (5-8, 251, Jr.) |
| P | 18 Waylon Prather (6-3, 229, So.) |

Long-suffering SJSU fans are hoping new coach Dick Tomey provides the same magic touch as Mike Price, who turned around former WAC member Texas El-Paso in just one season.

Tomey was hired in January to replace Fitz Hill, who was fired after going 14-33 in four seasons with the Spartans. By hiring a proven winner—Tomey currently ranks eighth in victories among active coaches in Division I-A—SJSU gains instant respectability, something it has lacked.

There are similarities between the situations Price and Tomey walked into. Both are established coaches in the later stages of their careers. Both inherited a veteran team coming off a last-place finish in the WAC. In 2003, Price turned the Miners from bottom-feeders into WAC contenders.

Tomey is taking over a team that went 2-9 and finished in last place in the WAC. Like the UTEP situation, SJSU returns a senior-laden team (34), including 14 returning starters, and will have 85 scholarship players for the first time in school history. The Spartans showed flashes last season by taking Boise State into double overtime before losing 56-49 and outscoring Rice 70-63 in regulation.

Offensively, former Stanford standout Ken Margerum is running the show and has installed the West Coast offense in its purest form. Margerum, a protégé of SJSU alumnus Bill Walsh, was also one of two finalists for SJSU's head-coaching job.

Margerum has plenty to work with, including what is arguably the fastest receiving corps in the WAC. The Spartans return their three leading receivers, Rufus Skillern (40 catches, 588 yards), John Broussard (20, 343) and James Jones (25, 317), and will look to get the ball in their hands.

Skillern could be poised for a breakout season. In SJSU's loss to Boise State, the returning senior had 10 catches for 167 yards and a touchdown.

Redshirt sophomore Adam Tafralis, who shared the starting duty last year with Dale Rogers, is the only quarterback on the roster with Division I-A experience and is expected to begin the season as the starter. Tafralis, an athletic, strong-armed quarterback, completed 29 of 65 passes last season for 432 yards and two touchdowns.

San Jose State lost leading rushers Tyson Thompson and Lance Martin. **WAC**

HAWAII**RAINBOW WARRIORS**

14 Record: 8-5 overall, 4-4 WAC
at UAB in the Hawaii Bowl, 59-40
Official athletic Web site: www.uhathletics.hawaii.edu



Get ready for some Elvis sightings at Aloha Stadium.

Former NFL coach and character Glenville, who was infamous for religiously leaving tickets for "The King" at will-call, was hired to turn around the second-worst defense in the nation.

Hawaii ranked 116th in total defense last season, giving up an average of 487.8 yards per game, and finished 112th in scoring defense by allowing an average of 38.4 points.

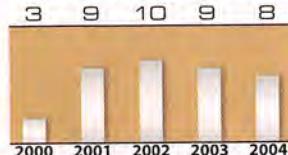
Although Glenville has been out of coaching since 1994, Hawaii's new defensive coordinator doesn't think he'll miss a beat. Glenville, a defensive guru in the NFL, made head coaching stops with the Houston Oilers and Atlanta Falcons, and spent the last year actively looking to get back into the college ranks.

Hawaii may need to rely on its defense this season with so many new faces on offense. Most everyone responsible for putting up an average of 35.9 points per game last season are gone, including quarterback Timmy Chang, who threw for a NCAA-record 16,667 career passing yards, breaking the mark set by Ty Detmer (15,031 yards) in 1991.

Six other offensive starters are also gone, all skill-position players, including all four receivers in June Jones' run-and-shoot offense. The most notable void is NFL draftee Chad Owens, a first-team All-WAC selection who caught 102 passes for 1,290 yards and 17 touchdowns in 2004. Running backs Michael Brewster and West Keliikipi, who combined for 1,058 yards and 13 touchdowns, are also gone.

Chang's replacement probably won't be decided until the end of fall practice. Of the five quarterbacks vying for the starting job, senior Kainoa Akina is the most experienced. The transfer from Eastern Michigan played in seven games last season, completing seven of 19 passes for 84 yards. Senior Jeffrey Rhode and three freshmen are also in contention.

Whoever wins those starting jobs should be well protected. Hawaii's offensive line returns almost intact, bringing back four starters, including junior Samson Satele, a second-team All-WAC pick. Defensively, there is a solid returning nucleus. **WAC**

FIVE-YEAR WINS TREND**2005 SCHEDULE**

| DATE | OPPONENT | '04 RESULT |
|-------|------------------|------------|
| S. 3 | USC | |
| S. 10 | @MICHIGAN STATE | 41-38 |
| S. 24 | @IDAHO | 52-21 |
| O. 1 | Boise State | 3-69 |
| O. 8 | @LOUISIANA TECH | 34-23 |
| O. 15 | New Mexico State | |
| O. 22 | @SAN JOSE STATE | 46-28 |
| O. 29 | Fresno State | 14-70 |
| N. 5 | @NEVADA | 48-26 |
| N. 12 | Utah State | |
| N. 25 | Wisconsin | |
| D. 3 | San Diego State | |

Head coach: June Jones, 7th Year (48-30)

Career Record: 48-30

Stadium: Aloha Stadium

Turf: Artificial

Capacity: 50,000

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 14
 Lettermen returning/lost: 36/16

OFFENSE

| | |
|----|--------------------------------------|
| QB | 13 Tyler Graunke (5-11, 179, Fr.) |
| RB | 4 Nate Ilaia (5-9, 240, Sr.) |
| LT | 70 Tala Esera (6-3, 291, Jr.) |
| LG | 64 Samson Satele (6-2, 278, Jr.) |
| C | 59 Derek Faavi (6-0, 271, Sr.) |
| RG | 66 Brandon Eaton (6-2, 291, Sr.) |
| RT | 72 Dana Uperesa (6-5, 328, Jr.) |
| WR | 81 Ian Sample (5-10, 195, Sr.) |
| WR | 85 Patrick Olchovsky (5-8, 169, So.) |
| WR | 21 Jason Ferguson (5-5, 157, So.) |
| WR | 82 Ross Dickerson (5-11, 190, Jr.) |

DEFENSE

| | |
|-----|--|
| LE | 98 Melila Purcell (6-4, 266, Sr.) |
| DT | 63 Michael Lafaele (6-1, 297, So.) |
| DT | 86 Ammon Tong (6-0, 254, So.) |
| RE | 30 Kila Kamakawiwo'ole (6-3, 241, Sr.) |
| WLB | 45 Tanuvasa Moe (5-11, 210, Sr.) |
| MLB | 43 Brad Kalilimoku (5-11, 201, So.) |
| SLB | 44 Khevin Peoples (5-11, 200, r-Fr.) |
| LBC | 10 Turmanian Moreland (6-0, 194, Sr.) |
| RCB | 24 Kenny Patton (6-0, 187, Jr.) |
| FS | 42 Leonard Peters (6-1, 184, Sr.) |
| SS | 15 Lono Manners (5-10, 204, Sr.) |

SPECIALISTS

| | |
|----|----------------------------------|
| PK | 26 Nolan Miranda (5-8, 163, Jr.) |
| P | 25 Kurt Milne (6-0, 196, Jr.) |

NEW MEXICO STATE**AGGIES**

2004 Record: 5-6 overall, 4-3 Sun Belt

Official athletic Web site: www.nmstatesports.com

The Aggies got a taste of life in the WAC last season in a game at Texas El Paso, and it was certainly an eye-opening experience.

They lost 45-0.

Making the transition from the Sun Belt Conference to the WAC certainly won't be easy for any of the incoming teams, which includes Idaho and Utah State.

But life could be especially hard for New Mexico State as it gets acclimated to new coach Hal Mumme, a new offense and defense and a significantly upgraded schedule.

Not only has New Mexico State upgraded its conference schedule by joining the WAC and getting games against Fresno State and Boise State, but the non-conference schedule is absolutely brutal. The Aggies open at home against a resurrected UTEP program, play consecutive road games at Colorado and New Mexico, then return home to play Cal.

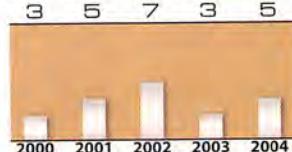
Their first foray into WAC play isn't much easier: a road trip to Louisiana Tech is followed by a home game against Fresno State, one of two favorites to win the league title. From there, New Mexico State makes the always-difficult trek to Honolulu to play Hawaii.

By the time the Aggies finally catch a break with a home game against Idaho, they will be seven games into their season.

But Mumme, who is 97-46-1 as a head coach (including at Kentucky from 1997-2000), does have experience in his favor. The Aggies return nine offensive starters, which should help while Mumme junks the option-oriented offense for a passing attack. New Mexico State's strength will be its offensive line, which returns four starters, including Nick Cole, a second-team, all-conference selection.

The Aggies also return an experienced group of running backs and receivers, including Muammar Ali, who rushed for a team-high 561 yards last season.

Quarterback will be a question mark leading up to the season opener as three candidates battle for the starting job. Senior Paul Dombrowski was the backup last season and also saw time at receiver, but attempted just 40 passes. Junior Joey Vincent has a strong arm but attempted just 14 passes last season. Junior college transfer Royal Gill is also in the mix. **WAC**

FIVE-YEAR WINS TREND**2005 SCHEDULE**

| DATE | OPPONENT | '04 RESULT |
|-------|-----------------|------------|
| S. 3 | UTEP | 0-45 |
| S. 10 | @COLORADO | |
| S. 17 | @NEW MEXICO | 3-38 |
| S. 23 | California | 14-41 |
| O. 1 | @LOUISIANA TECH | |
| O. 8 | Fresno State | |
| O. 15 | @HAWAII | |
| O. 29 | Idaho | |
| N. 5 | @BOISE STATE | |
| N. 12 | Nevada | |
| N. 19 | @SAN JOSE STATE | |
| N. 26 | Utah State | 25-34 |

Head coach: Hal Mumme, 1st Year (0-0)

Career Record: 97-46-1

Stadium: Aggie Memorial Stadium

Turf: Grass

Capacity: 30,343

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 14
 Lettermen returning/lost: 47/18

OFFENSE

| | |
|----|------------------------------------|
| QB | 10 Paul Dombrowski (6-0, 216, Sr.) |
| RB | 20 Muammar Ali (5-8, 195, Jr.) |
| LT | 75 Kyle Smith (6-2, 265, Jr.) |
| LG | 65 Jose Quinones (6-1, 300, Jr.) |
| C | 69 Mike Martinez (6-3, 315, So.) |
| RG | 64 Nick Cole (6-1, 348, Sr.) |
| RT | 74 Adam Honaker (6-3, 295, So.) |
| TE | 86 Roger Brown (6-3, 247, Sr.) |
| WR | 84 Tim Tolbert (6-1, 184, Jr.) |
| WR | 7 Brandon Allen (6-1, 172, So.) |
| WR | 19 Derek Dubois (6-1, 172, So.) |

DEFENSE

| | |
|-----|-------------------------------------|
| LE | 96 Chase Spicer (6-5, 278, Sr.) |
| NG | 92 Sam Ford (6-3, 295, Jr.) |
| RE | 91 Jared Naylor (6-2, 278, Jr.) |
| WAN | 24 John Howell (6-2, 232, Sr.) |
| LOB | 93 Brandon McKinney (6-3, 240, So.) |
| MLB | 42 Jimmy Cottrell (6-0, 237, Sr.) |
| ROB | 58 Chris Sneed (6-1, 216, Jr.) |
| LB | 31 Shukree Shabazz (5-9, 183, Sr.) |
| ROV | 25 Gill Byrd 95-9, 160, Jr.) |
| FS | 2 Matt Griebel (5-10, 180, Sr.) |
| SS | 41 Eric Carrie (5-9, 200, Jr.) |

SPECIALISTS

| | |
|----|---------------------------------|
| PK | 43 Ryan Guardia (5-8, 216, So.) |
| P | 48 Brad Evans (6-4, 184, Jr.) |

IDAHO

VANDALS



2004 Record: 3-9 overall, 2-5 Sun Belt
Official athletic Web site: www.uiathletics.com

FIVE-YEAR WINS TREND

5 1 2 3 3



2005 SCHEDULE

| DATE | OPPONENT | '04 RESULT |
|-------|-------------------|------------|
| S. 1 | @WASHINGTON STATE | 8-49 |
| S. 10 | @UNLV | |
| S. 17 | @WASHINGTON | |
| S. 24 | Hawaii | 21-52 |
| O. 1 | Utah State | 7-14 |
| O. 8 | @NEVADA | |
| O. 22 | Fresno State | |
| O. 29 | @NEW MEXICO STATE | |
| N. 12 | Louisiana Tech | |
| N. 19 | @BOISE STATE | 7-65 |
| N. 26 | @SAN JOSE STATE | |

Head coach: Nick Holt,

2nd Year (3-9)

Career Record: 3-9

Stadium: Kibbie Dome

Turf: Artificial

Capacity: 16,000

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 18
 Lettermen returning/lost: 41/15

OFFENSE

| | | |
|----|----|-------------------------------------|
| QB | 7 | Michael Harrington (6-3, 210, Sr.) |
| RB | 44 | Jayson Bird (6-0, 220, So.) |
| LT | 77 | Hank Thieren (6-7, 322, Jr.) |
| LG | 50 | Jake Tadvick (6-5, 320, Jr.) |
| C | 63 | Jarrod Schulte (6-3, 269, Sr.) |
| RG | 78 | Geoff Zuber (6-4, 320, Jr.) |
| RT | 68 | Nate VanderPol (6-6, 312, Jr.) |
| TE | 45 | Luke Smith-Anderson (6-5, 251, Jr.) |
| WR | 81 | Jeff Stowe (6-0, 190, Jr.) |
| WR | 4 | Desmond Belton (6-4, 180, So.) |
| WR | 19 | Wendell Octave (6-1, 178, Jr.) |

DEFENSE

| | | |
|----|----|-----------------------------------|
| DE | 99 | Mike Bonelli (6-2, 236, Sr.) |
| DT | 92 | Jeff Edwards (6-3, 263, Sr.) |
| DT | 91 | Siu Musika (6-1, 302, So.) |
| DE | 58 | Ben Alexander (6-1, 230, So.) |
| LB | 13 | Mike Anderson (6-3, 237, Sr.) |
| LB | 47 | Cole Snyder (5-11, 230, Sr.) |
| LB | 27 | Nate Nichols (6-2, 223, Sr.) |
| CB | 14 | Reggie Jones (5-10, 190, So.) |
| CB | 25 | Chris Meadows (5-11, 175, Fr.) |
| S | 2 | Brandon Mascorro (5-10, 200, Jr.) |
| S | 3 | Jevon Butler (6-0, 205, So.) |

SPECIALISTS

| | | |
|----|----|------------------------------|
| PK | 43 | Mike Barrow (5-11, 150, Jr.) |
| P | 13 | T.J. Conley (6-3, 210, Fr.) |

UTAH STATE

AGGIES



2004 Record: 3-8 overall, 2-5 Sun Belt

Official athletic Web site: www.utahstateaggies.com

FIVE-YEAR WINS TREND

5 4 4 3 3



2005 SCHEDULE

| DATE | OPPONENT | '04 RESULT |
|-------|-------------------|------------|
| S. 3 | Nicholls State | |
| S. 10 | @UTAH | 6-48 |
| S. 24 | UNLV | 31-21 |
| O. 1 | @IDAHO | 14-7 |
| O. 8 | San Jose State | |
| O. 15 | @FRESNO STATE | |
| O. 22 | Boise State | |
| O. 29 | @ALABAMA | 17-48 |
| N. 5 | Louisiana Tech | |
| N. 12 | @HAWAII | |
| N. 19 | Nevada | |
| N. 26 | @NEW MEXICO STATE | 34-25 |

Head coach: Brent Guy,

1st Year (0-0)

Career Record: 0-0

Stadium: Romney Stadium

Turf: Artificial

Capacity: 30,257

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 13
 Lettermen returning/lost: 42/22

OFFENSE

| | | |
|----|----|-----------------------------------|
| QB | 7 | Leon Jackson III (6-2, 189, So.) |
| RB | 2 | Chris Forbes (5-11, 190, So.) |
| LT | 72 | Donald Penn (6-5, 315, Sr.) |
| LG | 76 | Malik Cin (6-5, 308, Jr.) |
| C | 62 | Brent Deladurante (6-3, 314, Jr.) |
| RG | 63 | Pace Jorgensen (6-5, 325, So.) |
| RT | 74 | Justin Schlimgen (6-2, 300, Sr.) |
| TE | 88 | Jimmy Bohm (6-2, 266, Sr.) |
| WR | 87 | Jason Stephens (6-5, 254, Jr.) |
| WR | 1 | Tony Pennyman (5-9, 160, Jr.) |
| WR | 6 | Kevin Robinson (6-0, 189, So.) |

DEFENSE

| | | |
|----|----|-----------------------------------|
| DE | 37 | John Chick (6-4, 248, Sr.) |
| DT | 90 | Michael Gates (6-4, 250, Sr.) |
| DT | 75 | Ryan DeQuillettes (6-3, 291, Sr.) |
| DE | 56 | Jaron Fano (6-1, 260, Sr.) |
| LB | 40 | Nate Fredrick (6-3, 241, Sr.) |
| LB | 48 | Jake Stewart (6-4, 208, Sr.) |
| LB | 51 | Matt Wiser (6-0, 232, Sr.) |
| CB | 29 | Cornelius Lamb (6-3, 183, Sr.) |
| CB | 21 | Jarrett Bush (6-1, 192, Sr.) |
| S | 26 | Andre Bala (5-11, 194, Sr.) |
| S | 4 | Joe Lindsay (5-11, 179, Jr.) |

SPECIALISTS

| | | |
|----|----|----------------------------------|
| PK | 98 | Jarrod Jakubiak (5-11, 204, Sr.) |
| P | 13 | Justin Hamblin (5-11, 149, Jr.) |

Remember the name Kevin Robins

The 6-foot, 189-pound sophomore is an up-and-coming receiver and return man for the Aggies, leading the team in both categories last season. As a receiver, Robinson was the fourth-leading freshman in the country with 44 catches for 602 yards and three touchdowns.

As a return specialist, Robinson was second in the nation in punt return average at 22.5 yards per return, earning him second-team All-Sun Belt Conference honors. Behind Robinson Utah State led the nation in punt-return average.

Players like Robinson have given first-year coach Brent Guy optimism about the future. In the meantime, Utah State could endure some lopsided losses during the rebuilding process.

Utah State was ranked No. 111 in the nation in total offense and scoring offense last season, which doesn't bode well in the high-scoring WAC. In four of their losses, Utah State was held to seven points or less.

The Aggies were successful throwing the ball in the Sun Belt Conference, averaging 214 yards per game (58th in the nation) but struggled on the ground, averaging just 76 yards per game.

With inexperience at quarterback, the Aggies need more production out of their running game. Sophomore Chris Forbes, one of five returning offensive starters, could be the answer. Forbes led the team in rushing last season with 396 yards and three TDs on 108 carries and is the only returning player who carried the ball 40 times or more last season.

Utah State's biggest concern is replacing quarterback Travis Cox, who threw for nearly 2,000 yards and 10 touchdowns as a senior. Although Utah State returns two letter-winners, Leon Jackson III is the only player on the roster with Division I-A experience, having completed 26 of 48 passes for 404 yards and one touchdown last season.

Whoever wins the quarterback derby will have a nice pair of targets to throw to. Although Robinson was a part-time starter last season, he will likely assume a full-time role aside receiver Tony Pennyman, giving Utah State a nice tandem at receiver. Pennyman was the team's second-leading receiver last season. **WAC**



Games to watch:

>> **Utah at TCU**, Sept. 15

Welcome to the MWC. The Horned Frogs' first game in their new league is against a team that went 13-1 the past two years in league play.

>> **New Mexico at Wyoming**, Oct. 15

The top two candidates for the league title meet in midseason on the plains of Laramie.

>> **Utah at BYU**, Nov. 19

Both teams hope this in-state rivalry game/regular-season finale will be for all the MWC marbles.

official conference website
www.themwc.com**Return to league normalcy likely, but Utes are still the team to beat**

By Loren Jorgensen

The (Salt Lake City) Deseret News

It wasn't supposed to be. Most thought it would never happen. Bowl Championship Series games (and money) were never really meant to be available to any of the so-called "non-BCS leagues." Hence, the term "non-BCS league."

Sure, there had been talk of "BCS-busters" before, but every year by mid-November, if not sooner, that threat had passed and the top six football conferences had never had to share a piece of the pie with any of the other five leagues.

Until the 2004 Utah Utes came along.

The stars aligned just right, as the best-ever Ute team, playing in an overall down season for the Mountain West Conference, rolled to a perfect record. Utah, frankly, was never really even tested. They never trailed in the second half of any game and won every contest by at least 14 points.

The BCS, thanks to Utah's top-six ranking in the BCS formula, was forced to take the Utes. Utah responded by thumping Big East automatic entrant Pittsburgh 35-7 in the Fiesta Bowl on New Year's Day.

It certainly was a dream season for Utah

and the rest of the league, truth be told, since they each earned a share of the BCS money for the first time.

Alas, the MWC shouldn't get used to it, however. While Utah will be strong again, the losses of coach Urban Meyer, QB Alex Smith and a host of others will bring it back toward the pack. Many of the other MWC teams should be better and the addition of Texas Christian, formerly of Conference USA, will only help to ensure more parity.

Expect the league to be better overall than it was a year ago, when only three teams were bowl-eligible at season's end. What shouldn't be expected, however, is that one team will have a breakout year like Utah's in '04.

In other words, MWC teams will be back to setting their sites on getting to low-payout post-season games like the Las Vegas Bowl, Emerald Bowl and brand-new Poinsettia Bowl in San Diego.

Oh, well. Playing with the big boys and getting huge checks in the process was fun while it lasted.

Rating the players

| | |
|-----------------------|------------------------------------|
| Festest receiver | Todd Watkins, BYU |
| Best hands | David Anderson, WR, Colorado State |
| Best passing QB | John Beck, BYU |
| Best running QB | Shaun Carney, Air Force |
| Most elusive RB | Lynell Hamilton, San Diego State |
| Best instincts | Hank Baskett, WR, New Mexico |
| Best athlete | Javon Bouknight, WR, Wyoming |
| Best under pressure | Tye Gunn, QB, TCU |
| Top NFL prospect | Steve Fifita, DL, Utah |
| Top impact freshman | Marquis Wilson, WR, Utah |
| Hardest hitter | Spencer Toone, LB, Utah |
| Biggest underachiever | Daniel Coats, TE, BYU |

Rating the coaches

| | |
|-------------------|---------------------|
| Best strategist | Joe Glenn, Wyoming |
| Best recruiter | Gary Patterson, TCU |
| Coach on the spot | Tom Craft, SDSU |

Don't be surprised if ...

Utah's Brian Johnson becomes the best QB in the league. He's just 18 and less experienced than most of his counterparts, but he had an outstanding spring and spent all of last season soaking up information from former roommate and No. 1 overall NFL draft pick Alex Smith.

One man's opinion

"It's a joke that the Big East Conference has an automatic BCS berth this year and our conference doesn't, especially after what [Utah] did against their champion [Pittsburgh] in the Fiesta Bowl."

—a Mountain West coach

Rating the recruits**1. TCU**

Talented class led by transfer DB Marvin White, freshman fullback Chris Smith and B-B DL Nic Richmond.

2. San Diego State

Aztecs always have great receivers—Tyrell Smith, Roberto Walker and Mekell Wesley will continue the tradition.

3. Utah

Hawaiian juco defensive linemen Soli Lefiti and Tolifili Liufau are top talents. Fresh WR Marquis Wilson will play immediately.

4. BYU

Top recruit Matt Reynolds is son of Couger assistant coach. Defensive tackle Russell Tialavea is another major prospect.

5. New Mexico

Signed a dozen transfers for fast relief, led by DB Aleem Harris. Quarterback Donovan Porter is top fresh.

6. Wyoming

Locked 22 freshmen with just three transfers. Quarterback Karsten Sweeny and DT Corey Mace highlight the class.

7. UNLV

Coaching change/late start hurts Rebels. Running back Torii Coleman and QB Jerrod Jackson give hope for future.

8. Colorado State

Freshmen-intensive class (just three transfers) is headed by linebackers Jacob Pottoroff and John Radford.

9. Air Force

Falcons don't sign letters-of-intent. Players expected to arrive in June include RBs Dylan Phillips and Wade Weyer.

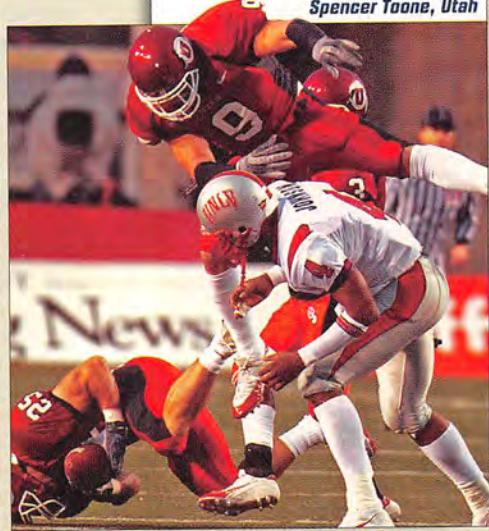
Street & Smith's ALL-CONFERENCE TEAM**Offense**

| | |
|-------|-------------------------------------|
| QB | John Beck, Jr., BYU |
| RB | Lynell Hamilton, So., San Diego St. |
| RB | DonTrell Moore, Sr., New Mexico |
| DL | Ryan Cook, Sr., New Mexico |
| DL | Jon Wilson, Sr., Air Force |
| DL | Jake Kuresa, Jr., BYU |
| DL | Jesse Boone, Sr., Utah |
| DL | Herbert Taylor, Jr., TCU |
| WR | David Anderson, Sr., Colorado St. |
| WR | Todd Watkins, Sr., BYU |
| TE | John Wedkowski, Sr., Wyoming |
| PK | Deric Yaussi, Sr., Wyoming |
| PR/KR | Hoost Marsh, So., Wyoming |

Defense

| | |
|----|------------------------------------|
| DL | Steve Fifita, Sr., Utah |
| DL | Marcus Parker, Sr., N. Mexico |
| DL | Manala Brown, Sr., BYU |
| DL | Tommy Blake, So., TCU |
| LB | Spencer Toone, Sr., Utah |
| LB | Cameron Jensen, Jr., BYU |
| LB | Andrew Ward, Jr., TCU |
| DB | Gabriel Fulbright, Sr., New Mexico |
| DB | Derrick Martin, Jr., Wyoming |
| DB | Eric Weddle, Jr., Utah |
| DB | Quincy Butler, Sr., TCU |
| P | Adam Brooks, Jr., Wyoming |

Spencer Toone, Utah





QUINTON GANTHER, TB

UTAH

UTES

2004 Record: 12-0 overall, 7-0 MWC (beat Pittsburgh in the Fiesta Bowl, 35-7)

Stadium: Rice-Eccles Stadium

Turf: Artificial

Capacity: 45,017

Official athletic Web site: www.utahutes.com

PRESEASON RANK:

FIVE-YEAR WINS TREND

1

4 8 5 10 12
2000 2001 2002 2003 2004

Head coach: Kyle Whittingham, 1st Year (0-0) Career Record: 0-0

Assistant coaches: Gary Andersen (def. coord./def. line), Andy Ludwig (off. coord./QBs), Jay Boulware (TES/co-STs), Charlie Dickey (off. line), Jay Hill (CBs/co-STs), Derrick Odum (safeties), Aaron Roderick (WRs), Dave Schramm (RBs/recruiting coord.), Kalani Sitake (ILBs)



2005 SCHEDULE

| DATE | OPPONENT | '04 RESULT |
|-------|-----------------|------------|
| S. 2 | Arizona | 23-6 |
| S. 10 | Utah State | 48-6 |
| S. 15 | @TCU | |
| S. 22 | Air Force | 49-35 |
| O. 1 | @NORTH CAROLINA | 46-16 |
| O. 8 | @COLORADO STATE | 63-31 |
| O. 15 | San Diego State | 51-28 |
| O. 22 | @UNLV | 63-28 |
| N. 5 | Wyoming | 45-28 |
| N. 12 | New Mexico | 28-7 |
| N. 19 | @BRIGHAM YOUNG | 52-21 |

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 12
Lettermen returning/lost: 43/22

OFFENSE

| | |
|----|---------------------------------------|
| QB | 3 Brian Johnson (6-2, 203, So.) |
| TB | 13 Quinton Ganther (5-10, 217, Sr.) |
| HB | 6 Brent Casteel (5-11, 192, Fr.) |
| LT | 78 Tavo Tupola (6-4, 290, Jr.) |
| LG | 74 David Dirkmaat (6-7, 311, Sr.) |
| C | 79 Jesse Boone (6-5, 303, Sr.) |
| RG | 75 Eric Pettit (6-4, 300, Jr.) |
| RT | 69 Jason Boone (6-3, 283, So.) |
| TE | 81 Willie Sao (6-3, 280, Sr.) |
| WR | 88 Travis LaTendresse (6-1, 194, Sr.) |
| WR | 23 John Madsen (6-5, 220, Sr.) |

DEFENSE

| | |
|-----|---------------------------------------|
| DE | 55 Marquess Ledbetter (6-2, 265, Sr.) |
| NG | 98 Kelly Talavou (6-1, 321, Jr.) |
| DT | 94 Steve Fifita (6-0, 322, Sr.) |
| DE | 42 Pate Moleni (6-2, 265, Fr.) |
| MLB | 41 Grady Marshall (6-0, 225, Sr.) |
| SLB | 38 Reggie Turner (6-1, 239, Jr.) |
| ROV | 9 Spencer Toone (6-2, 235, Sr.) |
| LCB | 5 Ryan Smith (5-10, 160, So.) |
| RCB | 8 Eugene Oates (5-11, 183, Sr.) |
| FS | 31 Casey Evans (6-0, 198, Jr.) |
| SS | 32 Eric Weddle (6-0, 200, Jr.) |

SPECIALISTS

| | |
|----|-----------------------------------|
| PK | 7 Bryan Borreson (5-10, 186, Sr.) |
| P | 48 Dan Beardall (6-0, 198, Sr.) |

Strong up front on both sides of the ball, Utes will win MWC again sans Urban legend

After two years of Urban (Meyer) renewal at Utah, longtime assistant Kyle Whittingham takes the reins of a club boasting talent but facing a number of questions at key positions. The most obvious absences: Meyer, who authored a 12-0 campaign for the Utes last season before leaving for the University of Florida; and Heisman Trophy candidate Alex Smith, the all-everything quarterback who became the top pick in April's NFL Draft.

Despite the changes and departures—14 starters from last season's BCS squad are gone—Utah remains the class of the Mountain West Conference.

Most scrutiny will fall on the offense, which ranked third in the country in scoring last season. With Smith gone, the new quarterback is likely to be sophomore Brian Johnson, who handled mop-up duties during 10 games in 2004. Johnson's limited playing time as a true freshman offered flashes of versatility, including a 4.4-yards-per-carry average and 14 completions in 21 pass attempts.

Still, Johnson offers no guarantees—and has gigantic shoes to fill in replacing Smith.

While Johnson finds his footing, the Utes will likely turn to a veteran running corps that will be bolstered by a talented and deep offensive line. In the trenches, second-team all-conference center Jesse Boone anchors things up front. The 6-5, 303-pound senior is big, fast and impressive enough to warrant preseason consideration for the Rimington Trophy. Junior guard Eric Pettit, who started three games in 2004, moves to the right side from the left, replacing All-American Chris Kemoeatu. Junior Paul Soliai may push Pettit for the job, while senior David Dirkmaat is slotted at left guard. Junior Tavo Tupola and sophomore Jason Boone (Jesse's brother) are the anticipated starters at left and right tackle, respectively.

With the blocking in good hands, senior Quinton Ganther (654 yards rushing, 6.0 per carry in 2004) leads a bevy of talented runners. Redshirt sophomore Mike Liti and USC transfer Darryl Poston, a senior, should also see plenty of action.



Newly-installed offensive coordinator Andy Ludwig, recruited from the Oregon staff, plans a gradual shift to his favored pro-style offense this season, hoping to incorporate some of Meyer's renowned spread schemes while also coping with a depleted receiving corps. Gone is all-conference wideout Steve Savoy, who decided to leave early for the NFL Draft but was not selected. Seniors John Madsen, the lone returning starter, and Travis LaTendresse, a medical hardship, will be the primary targets. A pair of game-tested seniors, Willie Sao and Blake Burdette, will share the work at tight end.

Don't expect many changes on defense, which the new head man, Whittingham, steered as coordinator for a decade. With his ascension to the top job, seven-year defensive line coach Gary Andersen takes over the Utes' 4-3 set as coordinator. Last season, Utah finished second in the Mountain West in scoring defense and total defense.

To repeat that performance, Utah must cope with the loss of six starters. Senior linebacker Spencer Toone leads the way. He posted a team-best 115 tackles last season, second best in the conference. Beyond Toone, though, the linebacking corps is inexperienced and lacking depth.

Things are better along the defensive line and in the secondary, where sophomore cornerback Ryan Smith should vie for all-conference honors. Senior Eugene Oates is the other corner, with second-team all-conference pick Eric Weddle at strong safety and former walk-on Casey Evans at free safety.

Senior Marquess Ledbetter (46 tackles, 4.5 sacks), who mans the Utes' open-end position, joins senior tackle Steve Fifita (an all-conference selection at nose guard in 2004) as leaders of the front four.

Special teams may prove adventurous this season, as the Utes must replace their starting kicker, punter and long snapper. Bryan Borreson, Dan Beardall and Brock Condie will try to fill the vacated roles, respectively.

—Erik Spanberg

WYOMING

COWBOYS

LARAMIE, WYO.

2004 Record: 7-5 overall, 3-4 MWC (beat UCLA in the Las Vegas Bowl, 24-21)

Stadium: War Memorial Stadium

Official athletic Web site: www.wyomingathletics.com

Turf: Grass

Capacity: 32,580



FIVE-YEAR WINS TREND

| | | | | |
|------|------|------|------|------|
| 1 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 7 |
| 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 |

PRESEASON RANK:

2

Head coach: Joe Glenn, 3rd Year (11-13) Career Record: 169-72-1

Assistant coaches: Mike Breske (asst. head coach/def. coord./secondary), Marty English (LBs), Chris Knutson (STs coord./DTs), Lance Robinson (def. line), Bill Cockhill (off. coord./QBs), Bryan Applewhite (RBs), Chad Germer (OL), Harvey Patton (TEs), Ron Wisniewski (recruiting coord./WRs)



COREY BRAMLET, QB

Cowboys set to ride herd after clutch

Las Vegas Bowl win over UCLA Bruins

A raft of returning stars, the lingering halo of a bowl win over UCLA and coach Joe Glenn's turnaround magic have made college football fans feel at home on the range once again.

A moribund program when Glenn arrived in January 2003—Wyoming won just two games during the prior season—the Cowboys are now poised for better days.

Start with those starters, a whopping 19 of them. With Glenn losing just five regulars from a 7-5 squad last season, expect Wyoming to give defending conference champs Utah a stiff test (the schools' Nov. 5 meeting in Salt Lake City could decide the Mountain West crown). The Cowboys aren't shying away from competition, either. Beyond the conference slate, Wyoming will make two trips to SEC schools, visiting Ole Miss and facing former foe Urban Meyer in the season opener at Florida.

Offensively, Wyoming should have little trouble maintaining, or improving upon, a scoring average of 26.5 points per game (third in the Mountain West) last season. Senior quarterback Corey Bramlet, the MVP of the Cowboys' Las Vegas Bowl upset of UCLA, returns after a stellar junior campaign. He threw for 2,409 yards and 12 touchdowns while also finishing as the team's third-leading rusher (209 yards, 4 TDs).

Bramlet should have time to throw—or run—as a solid offensive line returns four starters. Still, a gaping hole must be filled at center after the graduation of four-year letterman Trenton Franz. Senior Drew Severn and redshirt freshman Kyle Howard are vying to replace Franz. The remaining spots are set: junior Chase Johnson and Hunter Richards at tackle with senior Alan Erving and junior Jason Karcher handling guard duties.

A strong receiving corps returns, led by senior All-America candidate Jovon Bouknight (63 receptions for 1,075 yards and 7 TDs in 2004). Bouknight finished 15th in the nation in receiving yards and 27th in all-purpose yards (140 per game). Senior Josh Barge (23 catches for 310 yards) and junior Tyler Holden (27 receptions for 339 yards) are solid as well. Senior tight end John Wadkowski missed spring practice but is anticipated back in form for the regular season.

If there is a concern, it is at running back. Junior Ivan Harrison (587 yards on 159 carries)

and senior Joseph Harris (409 yards on 94 carries) both missed spring practice with injuries, but remain the projected rushing leaders.

On the other side of the ball, Wyoming boasts a strong secondary and a solid defensive line. The big question marks are at linebacker, where veterans Randy Tscharner and Guy Tuell must be replaced. Another key departure: defensive tackles (and four-year lettermen) Jacob Bonde and former team captain Zach Morris.

The Cowboys ranked third in the conference in scoring defense during 2004, but allowed a hefty 390.7 yards per game (sixth in the Mountain West). To improve on those numbers, Wyoming begins with a stellar secondary. Junior cornerback Derrick Martin (60 tackles, 3 INTs) ranked 14th in the nation in passes defensed (interceptions plus pass breakups). He'll be joined by senior Terrance Butler (26 tackles, 4 INTs) on the other side. Junior free safety and All-America hopeful John Wendling led the Cowboys with 89 tackles a year ago, including three fumble recoveries and three interceptions. Senior Ron Rockett and junior Marcial Rosales both saw action last season and will battle for the other safety spot.

Spark plug Dusty Hoffsneider, a 5-8, 257-pound nose guard who fills his down time qualifying for NCAA wrestling meets, posted 59 tackles as a junior in 2004 and returns as the leader of the defensive line. Senior ends John Flora and Aaron Robbins return as well, with junior Jake Mayes the top candidate to replace Morris at tackle.

Both the middle and weakside linebacker positions will have new starters this season, with a number of contenders in the mix. The lone certainty: strongside is set with junior Austin Hall (20 tackles in 2004). Beyond Hall, the theme is questions, questions, questions.

Expect big things from the special-teams unit, which returns some of the conference's top performers at kicker (senior Deric Yaussi, who tallied 90 points in 2004, second best in the MWC), punter (senior Adam Brooks, 42.5 yards per punt) and returners (star receiver Bouknight handles kicks and averaged 22.9 yards per return, while sophomore Hoost Marsh posted a conference-best punt-return average of 13.5 yards).

—Erik Spanberg

2005 SCHEDULE

| DATE | OPPONENT | '04 RESULT |
|-------|------------------|------------|
| S. 3 | @FLORIDA | |
| S. 10 | Louisiana-Monroe | 31-10 |
| S. 17 | @AIR FORCE | 43-26 |
| S. 24 | @MISSISSIPPI | 37-32 |
| O. 1 | UNLV | 53-45 (OT) |
| O. 8 | TCU | |
| O. 15 | New Mexico | 9-16 |
| O. 22 | @COLORADO STATE | 7-30 |
| N. 5 | @UTAH | 28-45 |
| N. 12 | Brigham Young | 13-24 |
| N. 19 | @SAN DIEGO STATE | 20-10 |

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 19
Lettermen returning/lost: 48/13

OFFENSE

| | | |
|----|----|---------------------------------|
| QB | 17 | Corey Bramlet (6-4, 219, Sr.) |
| RB | 2 | Ivan Harrison (5-7, 190, Jr.) |
| LT | 73 | Chase Johnson (6-8, 325, Jr.) |
| LG | 78 | Alan Erving (6-4, 295, Sr.) |
| C | 75 | Drew Severn (6-3, 301, Sr.) |
| RG | 69 | Jason Karcher (6-3, 304, Jr.) |
| RT | 67 | Hunter Richards (6-7, 287, Jr.) |
| TE | 81 | John Wadkowski (6-4, 259, Sr.) |
| WR | 9 | Jovon Bouknight (6-1, 191, Sr.) |
| WR | 5 | Tyler Holden (6-0, 175, Jr.) |
| WR | 22 | Josh Barge (6-0, 209, Sr.) |

DEFENSE

| | | |
|--------------------|----|-----------------------------------|
| DE | 42 | Aaron Robbins (6-4, 253, Sr.) |
| NG | 58 | Dusty Hoffsneider (5-8, 257, Sr.) |
| DT | 97 | Jake Mayes (6-3, 285, Jr.) |
| DE | 43 | John Flora (6-4, 267, Sr.) |
| WLB | 31 | Jeff Tatnall (5-11, 230, Sr.) |
| MLB | 44 | John Prater (6-2, 239, Jr.) |
| SLB | 45 | Austin Hall (6-2, 229, Jr.) |
| CB | 3 | Terrance Butler (6-1, 179, Sr.) |
| CB | 1 | Derrick Martin (5-11, 189, Jr.) |
| FS | 23 | John Wendling (6-1, 209, Jr.) |
| SS | 12 | Ron Rockett (6-1, 185, Sr.) |
| SPECIALISTS | | |
| PK | 40 | Deric Yaussi (5-11, 199, Sr.) |
| P | 39 | Adam Brooks (5-11, 190, Sr.) |



LOBOS

NEW MEXICO

LOBOS

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M.

2004 Record: 7-5 overall, 5-2 MWC (lost to Navy in the Emerald Bowl, 34-19)

Stadium: University Stadium

Official athletic Web site: www.golobos.com

Turf: Grass

Capacity: 38,634

PRESEASON RANK:

FIVE-YEAR WINS TREND

3

5 6 7 8 7
2000 2001 2002 2003 2004

Head coach: Rocky Long, 8th Year (40-45) Career Record: 40-45

Assistant coaches: Dan Dodd (off. coord.), Osia Lewis (def. coord./def. line), Everett Todd (STs/recruiting), Bob Bostad (off. line), Lenny Rodriguez (LBs), Jason Strauss (WRs/TEs), Grady Stretz (safeties), Tony Reffett (CBs), Cornell Jackson (RBs)



DONTRELL MOORE, TB

2005 SCHEDULE

| DATE | OPPONENT | '04 RESULT |
|-------|------------------|------------|
| S. 3 | UNLV | 24-20 |
| S. 10 | @MISSOURI | |
| S. 17 | New Mexico State | 38-3 |
| S. 24 | @UTEP | |
| O. 1 | @TCU | |
| O. 8 | Brigham Young | 21-14 |
| O. 15 | @WYOMING | 16-9 |
| O. 22 | @SAN DIEGO STATE | 19-9 |
| O. 29 | Colorado State | 26-17 |
| N. 12 | @UTAH | 7-28 |
| N. 19 | Air Force | 23-28 |

PROJECTED STARTERS

| |
|---|
| Starters returning: 17 |
| Lettermen returning/lost: 43/20 |
| OFFENSE |
| QB 12 Kole McKamey (6-2, 208, Jr.) |
| FB 44 Adrian Byrd (6-1, 233, Sr.) |
| TB 22 DonTrell Moore (5-10, 208, Sr.) |
| ST 74 Patrick Hodges (6-5, 302, Jr.) |
| SG 59 Robert Turner (6-4, 328, Jr.) |
| C 63 Ryan Cook (6-7, 316, Sr.) |
| QG 64 Bo Greer (6-3, 318, Jr.) |
| QT 79 Terrance Pennington (6-7, 329, Sr.) |
| TE 82 Logan Hall (6-5, 257, Sr.) |
| WR 18 Hank Baskett (6-4, 220, Sr.) |
| WR 87 Anthony Carter (6-0, 180, Sr.) |
| DEFENSE |
| LE 94 Adam Garday (6-2, 253, Sr.) |
| NT 90 Marcus Parker (6-2, 269, Sr.) |
| RE 92 Evroy Thompson (6-0, 247, Sr.) |
| OLB 58 Michael Tuohy (6-2, 240, So.) |
| ILB 56 Mike Mohoric (6-3, 240, Sr.) |
| ILB 45 Joe Selander (6-2, 230, Sr.) |
| OLB 91 Quincy Black (6-3, 235, Jr.) |
| LCB 19 Jerrell Malone (6-1, 180, Sr.) |
| RBC 23 Gabriel Fulbright (5-10, 161, Sr.) |
| LS 7 Charles Brown (6-0, 203, Sr.) |
| RS 9 Tyson Ditmore (6-2, 200, So.) |
| SPECIALISTS |
| PK 80 Kenny Byrd (6-0, 172, Jr.) |
| P 25 Tyler Gaus (6-2, 205, Sr.) |

If dynamic All-America candidate Moore is 100 percent, Lobos will need less of everything else to win big

Short of becoming a prime-time returnee as "Sheriff Lobo," Rocky Long has done just about everything possible to establish New Mexico as a perennial contender. Since 2002, only Utah has won more Mountain West Conference games than the Lobos. With an appearance in the Emerald Bowl last season, New Mexico notched its third straight postseason game, a first for the 106-year-old program.

Now Long must figure out what to do for an encore. He'll have 17 starters back for a run at projected conference leaders Utah and Wyoming, though a huge question mark looms over the Lobos heading into fall practice.

The question mark? All-everything senior running back DonTrell Moore, who, as of early May, was recovering from a knee injury suffered in the bowl game. Long didn't expect to have a definitive answer on when Moore's senior season would begin until August.

A 5-10, 208-pound runner with three 1,000-yard seasons to his credit (just five players in Division I-A history have notched four 1,000-yard campaigns), Moore, in many ways, is the Lobo offense. He gained 1,091 yards in 2004 and scored five TDs despite the bowl injury and a sprained knee earlier in the year. A combination of speed, quickness, field vision and fancy footwork, Moore is indispensable. If he can't return, the Lobos will struggle to replace him.

With or without Moore, New Mexico must get improved production from junior quarterback Kole McKamey. Hampered by concussions as well as inexperience last season, he improved as the year wore on, averaging 269 yards total offense—including 145 rushing—during the final two games.

McKamey should have time to throw and room to run as a deep offensive line returns. It includes senior all-conference center Ryan Cook and junior honorable-mention guard Robert Turner. Senior tackle Terrance Pennington also returns, with a number of candidates battling for the remaining starting spots.

If McKamey can throw, he'll have an inviting target in senior Hank Baskett (909 yards on 54 catches in 2004). Baskett, a 6-4, 220-pound high jump champion, poses nightmare matchup

problems for opponents. Seniors Anthony Carter and Chris Brawley should also contribute. Tight end will continue to be handled by committee, with senior Logan Hall, junior Curtis Pino and redshirt freshman Chris Mark all expected to see significant playing time.

On defense, New Mexico moved to a 3-4 alignment last season and flourished. The Lobos led the conference in rushing defense (108.2 yards per game), total defense (323.2), scoring defense (18.7 points per game) and sacks (42).

Repeating that performance won't be easy, particularly with a depleted linebacking corps. Departed stars Nick Speegle, Chrishone Harris and Fola Fashola—all linebackers—combined for 237 tackles in 2004. Senior inside linebacker Mike Mohoric is the lone returning starter. Junior Quincy Black will likely fill Fashola's former outside linebacker spot and, from there, it gets murky. In all, Long anticipates as many as six players will rotate at the four linebacker positions this season.

Prospects look better along the defensive front and in the secondary. Senior starters Marcus Parker (nose tackle) and Evroy Thompson (end) return, with another veteran, senior end Adam Garday, slotted for the spot vacated by Kyle Coulter.

Senior all-conference selection Gabriel Fulbright (5 INTs) returns at cornerback, but the Lobos will miss versatile performer Brandon Payne, who led the team with six picks during an outstanding senior campaign in 2004. Senior Jerrell Malone will try to replace Payne. At safety, three players with substantial game experience—seniors Charles Brown and Ken West and sophomore Tyson Ditmore—will battle for two starting positions.

Special teams offer a mixed bag, with the biggest hole at kicker, where two-time all-conference selection Wes Zunker must be replaced. Junior Kenny Byrd is the top candidate to do so. Fourth-year punter Tyler Gaus returns, as does sophomore deep snapper Jon O'Brien. As usual, the Lobos remain a punt-block threat, having knocked down 15 attempts since 2000, including two returned for touchdowns last season against Air Force.

—Erik Spanberg

BRIGHAM YOUNG
COUGARS

Record: 5-6 overall, 4-3 MWC
Official athletic Web site: www.bycougars.com

First-year coach Bronco Mendenhall is a very simple job—return the Cougars to glory.

Gary Crowton was unable to do it and was fired after three straight losing seasons. Mendenhall knows that BYU fans and alumni will be anything but patient in their desire for a turnaround. Mendenhall brought in Texas Tech offensive line coach Robert Nae to take over an offense that averaged 24.3 points per game and ranked 69th in scoring nationally. Nae brings the same wide-open passing philosophy that head coach Mike Leach has used so well with the Red Raiders, and he appears to have some decent talent to execute it.

Junior John Beck returns at quarterback, coming off a season in which he made the All-MWC second team. Beck threw for 2,563 yards and 15 touchdowns even though he had shoulder problems much of the season.

Beck will try to get the ball to 6-foot-3 senior wide receiver Todd Watkins, who runs the 40 in the sub-4.4 range and is an outstanding deep threat. Watkins will be joined by Joe Griffin, a former Junior College All-American who redshirted last year.

Brigham Young has strength at running back with junior Curtis Brown, a second-team All-MWC performer who averaged five yards per carry a year ago. Backup Naufahu Thai has the ability to make big plays when Brown needs a rest. The offensive line looks solid with three returning starters.

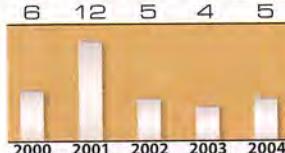
Mendenhall is known for building great defenses. In the spring, the Cougars appeared to adapt well to his aggressive 3-3-5 blitzing scheme that became such a staple when he was defensive coordinator at New Mexico.

He has a lot of work to do with a unit that ranked just fifth in the Mountain West and 70th in the nation in scoring defense, allowing 26.8 points per game. The pass defense was the biggest culprit, allowing a league-worst 229.3 yards per contest.

A very deep and talented defensive line returns starters Manaia Brown and Michael Marquardt. The linebacking crew figures to be improved with the addition of Washington State transfer Aaron Wagner. Mendenhall also hopes senior Paul Walkenhorst can return from medical problems that kept him from playing a year ago.

—Steve Silverman

FIVE-YEAR WINS TREND



2005 SCHEDULE

| DATE | OPPONENT | '04 RESULT |
|-------|------------------|------------|
| S. 3 | Boston College | |
| S. 10 | Eastern Illinois | |
| S. 24 | TCU | |
| O. 1 | @SAN DIEGO STATE | 49-16 |
| O. 8 | @NEW MEXICO | 14-21 |
| O. 15 | Colorado State | 31-21 |
| O. 22 | @NOTRE DAME | 20-17 |
| O. 29 | Air Force | 41-24 |
| N. 5 | @UNLV | 20-24 |
| N. 12 | @WYOMING | 24-13 |
| N. 19 | Utah | 21-52 |

Head coach: Bronco Mendenhall,
1st Year (0-0)

Career Record: 0-0

Stadium: LaVell Edwards Stadium

Turf: Grass

Capacity: 64,045

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 13
Lettermen returning/lost: 43/19

OFFENSE

| | |
|----|-------------------------------------|
| QB | 12 John Beck (6-2, 210, Jr.) |
| RB | 6 Curtis Brown (6-0, 205, r-Jr.) |
| LT | 59 Eddie Keele (6-5, 305, r-Jr.) |
| LG | 78 Brian Sanders (6-3, 316, r-Sr.) |
| C | 54 Lance Reynolds (6-3, 293, r-Sr.) |
| RG | 76 Travis Bright (6-5, 315, r-Fr.) |
| RT | 73 Jake Kuresa (6-5, 330, r-Jr.) |
| WR | 1 Todd Watkins (6-3, 185, r-Sr.) |
| WR | 2 Bryce Mahuika (5-10, 185, r-So.) |
| WR | 10 Matt Allen (6-0, 185, r-So.) |
| WR | 18 Joe Griffin (6-3, 210, r-Jr.) |

DEFENSE

| | |
|-----|--|
| LE | 99 Manaia Brown (6-4, 310, r-Sr.) |
| NT | 94 Vince Feula (6-1, 300, r-Sr.) |
| RE | 46 Michael Marquardt (6-4, 260, r-Jr.) |
| LLB | 52 Aaron Wagner (6-3, 245, r-Jr.) |
| MLB | 35 Cameron Jensen (6-2, 230, r-Jr.) |
| RLB | 36 Markell Staffieri (6-3, 230, So.) |
| CGR | 28 Dustin Gabriel (6-1, 202, r-So.) |
| LKB | 24 Spencer White (6-1, 185, r-Sr.) |
| RKB | 21 K.C. Bills (6-1, 220, r-So.) |
| LKB | 13 Nate Soelberg (6-0, 172, r-Sr.) |
| RKB | 34 Kayle Buchanan (6-1, 190, r-So.) |

SPECIALISTS

| | |
|----|---------------------------------------|
| PK | 27 Trent Williams (6-1, 193, r-So.) |
| P | 93 Jared McLaughlin (6-5, 195, r-So.) |

TEXAS CHRISTIAN

HORNS FROGS



2004 Record: 5-6 overall, 3-5 C-USA

Official athletic Web site: www.gofrogs.com

After struggling to a 5-6 mark in their final season in Conference USA, the Horned Frogs hope to make a big impression in their opening act in the Mountain West.

Texas Christian had established itself as one of the most consistent teams in the nation in winning 37 games (and two conference titles) between 2000 and 2003. But the Horned Frogs lost their edge last year as their pass defense was abominable and the running game simply did not get the job done.

Coach Gary Patterson hopes to get things back on track with Tye Gunn behind center. While he has a world of talent, Gunn has had a difficult time staying healthy throughout his career.

Gunn has good passing skills and reads defenses extremely well. If he can stay upright, he should be able to put up some impressive numbers because wide receivers Cory Rodgers, Michael DePriest and Quintly Harmon all have good speed and excellent receiving skills.

Running backs Lonta Hobbs and Robert Merrill have both had 1,000-yard seasons. However, they were troubled by injuries last year and Patterson can't be sure that they will return to form. Freshman Justin Watts had the best spring of all the TCU running backs.

The Frogs must replace three starters on the offensive line, but Herbert Taylor returns at right tackle and senior left guard Shane Sims will also be back.

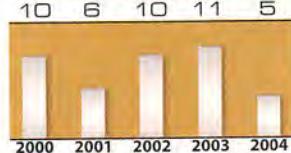
On the defensive side, cornerbacks Drew Coleman and Quincy Butler struggled after moving up from the junior-college level last season. However, both appeared significantly better after very productive spring sessions.

If the corners are going to have good seasons in 2005, they will need significant help from the defensive line. End Tommy Blake is TCU's best pass rusher. He should get help on the other side from Ranorris Ray, who has started 16 games in his career.

Linebacker Martin Patterson moves on after leading the team in tackles the last two seasons. Look for Andrew Ward to step into a leadership role there. He made seven starts last year and appears to be the team's top middle linebacker in the TCU defense's 4-2-5 alignment.

—Steve Silverman

FIVE-YEAR WINS TREND



2005 SCHEDULE

| DATE | OPPONENT | '04 RESULT |
|-------|---------------------|------------|
| S. 3 | @OKLAHOMA | |
| S. 10 | @SOUTHERN METHODIST | 44-0 |
| S. 15 | Utah | |
| S. 24 | @BRIGHAM YOUNG | |
| O. 1 | New Mexico | |
| O. 8 | @WYOMING | |
| O. 15 | Army | 21-17 |
| O. 22 | @AIR FORCE | |
| O. 29 | @SAN DIEGO STATE | |
| N. 5 | Colorado State | |
| N. 12 | UNLV | |

Head coach: Gary Patterson,
5th Year (32-17)

Career Record: 32-17

Stadium: Amon G. Carter Stadium

Turf: Grass

Capacity: 44,008

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 13
Lettermen returning/lost: 47/25

OFFENSE

| | |
|----|-------------------------------------|
| QB | 15 Tye Gunn (6-3, 218, Sr.) |
| FB | 47 William Jackson (6-0, 237, So.) |
| TB | 30 Lonta Hobbs (5-10, 220, Sr.) |
| LT | 72 Michael Toudoze (6-6, 310, Sr.) |
| LG | 62 Shane Sims (6-3, 290, Sr.) |
| C | 69 Stephen Culp (6-4, 307, Sr.) |
| RG | 61 Ben Angeley (6-5, 290, Sr.) |
| RT | 78 Herbert Taylor (6-4, 287, Jr.) |
| TE | 81 Chad Andrus (6-4, 246, Sr.) |
| WR | 17 Cory Rodgers (6-1, 195, Jr.) |
| WR | 19 Michael DePriest (6-0, 192, Jr.) |

DEFENSE

| | |
|-----|------------------------------------|
| LE | 88 Ranorris Ray (6-3, 275, Sr.) |
| NT | 57 Zarnell Fitch (6-4, 310, Sr.) |
| DT | 90 Jared Kesler (6-2, 280, Sr.) |
| RE | 97 Tommy Blake (6-3, 250, So.) |
| MLB | 35 Andrew Ward (6-2, 232, Jr.) |
| SLB | 46 David Hawthorne (6-0, 235, So.) |
| LCB | 4 Quincy Butler (6-1, 190, Sr.) |
| RCB | 11 Drew Coleman (5-11, 173, Sr.) |
| WS | 25 Eric Buchanan (5-11, 196, Jr.) |
| FS | 28 Jeremy Modkins (6-1, 198, Sr.) |
| SS | 6 Brian Bonner (5-11, 203, So.) |

SPECIALISTS

| | |
|----|-----------------------------------|
| PK | 13 Peter LoCoco (6-1, 201, Jr.) |
| P | 40 Brian Courtney (6-4, 215, Jr.) |

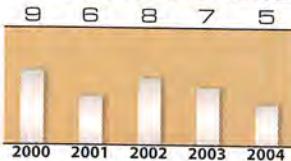
AIR FORCE

FALCONS



2004 Record: 5-6 overall, 3-4 MWC
Official athletic Web site: www.airforcesports.com

FIVE-YEAR WINS TREND



2005 SCHEDULE

| DATE | OPPONENT | '04 RESULT |
|-------|------------------|------------|
| S. 3 | @ Washington | |
| S. 10 | San Diego State | 31-37 |
| S. 17 | Wyoming | 26-43 |
| S. 22 | @ UTAH | 35-49 |
| O. 1 | @ COLORADO STATE | 47-17 |
| O. 8 | @ NAVY | 21-24 |
| O. 15 | UNLV | 27-10 |
| O. 22 | TCU | |
| O. 29 | @ BRIGHAM YOUNG | 24-41 |
| N. 5 | Army | 31-22 |
| N. 19 | @ NEW MEXICO | 28-23 |

Head coach: Fisher DeBerry,
22nd Year (161-94-1)

Career Record: 161-94-1

Stadium: Falcon Stadium

Turf: Grass

Capacity: 52,480

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 14
 Lettermen returning/lost: 52/27

OFFENSE

| | | |
|----|----|---------------------------------|
| QB | 5 | Shaun Carney (5-9, 195, So.) |
| HB | 16 | Adam Fitch (6-0, 190, Sr.) |
| HB | 18 | Justin Handley (5-8, 175, Jr.) |
| LT | 72 | Robert Kraay (6-8, 285, Jr.) |
| LG | 63 | Pat Edwards (6-2, 260, Sr.) |
| C | 56 | Jon Wilson (6-4, 300, Sr.) |
| RG | 69 | Caleb Morris (6-2, 275, So.) |
| RT | 57 | Ross Weaver (6-7, 295, Sr.) |
| TE | 91 | Robert McMenomy (6-4, 235, Sr.) |
| WR | 9 | Jason Brown (6-4, 220, Sr.) |
| WR | 85 | Greg Kirkwood (6-2, 205, Sr.) |

DEFENSE

| | | |
|-----|----|-----------------------------------|
| DE | 55 | Gilberto Perez (6-3, 275, Jr.) |
| NG | 88 | Russ Mitscherling (6-3, 285, Sr.) |
| DE | 78 | Nelson Mitchell (6-1, 260, Sr.) |
| LB | 26 | Jared Baxley (6-0, 195, Jr.) |
| LB | 44 | Rick Ricciardi (6-1, 235, Jr.) |
| LB | 7 | Marcus Brown (6-2, 240, So.) |
| FAL | 31 | John Taibi (6-2, 205, Sr.) |
| FAL | 27 | Denny Poland (6-3, 225, Sr.) |
| CB | 6 | Chris Sutton (6-0, 180, Jr.) |
| SC | 21 | Mark Carlson (6-0, 190, Sr.) |
| FS | 4 | Julian Madrid (6-0, 200, So.) |

SPECIALISTS

| | | |
|----|----|------------------------------|
| PK | 12 | Scott Eberle (6-1, 200, Sr.) |
| P | 30 | Donny Heaton (6-2, 195, Sr.) |

—Steve Silverman

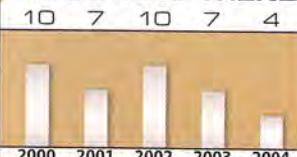
COLORADO STATE

RAMS



2004 Record: 4-7 overall, 3-4 MWC
Official athletic Web site: www.csurams.com

FIVE-YEAR WINS TREND



2005 SCHEDULE

| DATE | OPPONENT | '04 RESULT |
|-------|-----------------|------------|
| S. 3 | @ COLORADO | 24-27 |
| S. 10 | @ MINNESOTA | 16-34 |
| S. 24 | Nevada | |
| O. 1 | Air Force | 17-47 |
| O. 8 | Utah | 31-63 |
| O. 15 | @ BRIGHAM YOUNG | 21-31 |
| O. 22 | Wyoming | 30-7 |
| O. 29 | @ NEW MEXICO | 17-26 |
| N. 5 | @ TCU | |
| N. 12 | San Diego State | 21-17 |
| N. 19 | @ UNLV | 45-10 |

Head coach: Sonny Lubick,
13th Year (95-51)

Career Record: 116-70

Stadium: Hughes Stadium

Turf: Grass

Capacity: 34,000

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 18
 Lettermen returning/lost: 45/11

OFFENSE

| | | |
|----|----|----------------------------------|
| QB | 8 | Justin Holland (6-3, 201, Sr.) |
| HB | 80 | Kory Sperry (6-6, 210, So.) |
| RB | 34 | Kyle Bell (6-2, 210, So.) |
| WT | 63 | Mike Brisiel (6-5, 300, Sr.) |
| WG | 70 | Brandon Alconcel (6-4, 263, Sr.) |
| C | 77 | Albert Bimper (6-1, 303, Sr.) |
| SG | 76 | Josh Day (6-4, 296, Jr.) |
| ST | 71 | Clint Oldenburg (6-5, 290, Jr.) |
| TE | 92 | Matt Bartz (6-3, 249, Sr.) |
| WR | 4 | David Anderson (5-11, 192, Jr.) |
| WR | 85 | Dustin Osborn (6-0, 194, Jr.) |

DEFENSE

| | | |
|-----|----|---------------------------------|
| LE | 86 | Terrance Carter (6-3, 239, Sr.) |
| NT | 99 | Delroy Parke (6-2, 298, Sr.) |
| DT | 97 | Blake Smith (6-2, 290, So.) |
| RE | 59 | Jesse Nading (6-5, 243, So.) |
| WLB | 9 | Luke Adkins (6-2, 229, Jr.) |
| MLB | 52 | Courtney Jones (6-1, 323, Sr.) |
| SLB | 2 | Jahmal Hall (6-0, 183, Sr.) |
| LBC | 6 | Robert Herbert (6-1, 195, Jr.) |
| RCB | 1 | Brandon Cathy (5-10, 183, Jr.) |
| FS | 30 | Miles Kochaver (6-0, 195, Sr.) |
| SS | 3 | Ben Stratton (6-2, 210, Sr.) |

SPECIALISTS

| | | |
|----|----|-------------------------------|
| PK | 13 | Kevin Mark (6-2, 180, Sr.) |
| P | 8 | Jimmie Taylor (6-3, 194, So.) |

If bouncing back to previous form seems to be the game plan for Air Force and Brigham Young, the same standard also applies to Colorado State.

After becoming the standard bear in the Mountain West Conference, the Rams hit hard times with a 4-7 record in 2004—their first losing campaign in 11 years.

It clearly did not sit well with veteran coach Sonny Lubick. He knows he has a solid quarterback in Justin Holland, but he's intent on putting together a running game that will complement his quarterback's passing abilities.

The running back chores seemingly belong to instinctive and quick Kyle Bell. He appeared to take the lead for the starting spot over senior Jimmy Green and freshman Gartrell Johnson in the spring.

Holland was averaging better than 300 yards passing per game before he went down against San Diego State with a broken ankle. Athlete Caleb Hanie did a good job once Holland went down, and his running ability reminded CSU fans of former Rams signal-caller Bradlee Van Pelt.

Wide receiver David Anderson should be a star this year. He doesn't have impressive size or speed, but he runs precise routes and has great hands. Anderson will be joined by fellow wideout Dustin Osborn and H-back Kory Sperry. The offensive line returns four starters.

The defense has to get better after enduring a dreadful season. Five opponents scored at least 30 points on CSU and the Rams couldn't stop the run. They gave up 221.7 rushing yards per game and ranked 111th nationally in that department.

Eight starters return to the defensive lineup, including veteran safety standout Ben Stratton. The linebacking crew, which includes Courtney Jones, Jahmal Hall and Luke Adkins, should be the strength of this unit.

Lubick believes his defense lacked toughness a year ago. He tried to address that problem in spring practice, asking for at least 15 minutes of live hitting at the end of every practice—something he had never done in the past. It can only help a defense that is trying to regain the edge that once made it the scourge of the Mountain West.

—Steve Silverman

SAN DIEGO STATE

AZTECS

4 Record: 4-7 overall, 2-5 MWC
Official athletic Web site: www.goaztecs.com

New coaches at BYU (Bronco Mendenhall) and UNLV (Mike Sanford) are sure to get some time to establish themselves as legitimate Division I coaches. They can afford to be patient—at least for a couple of years.

The same cannot be said for San Diego State coach Tom Craft, who is 14-22 over the last four years and has been unable to get his team to play consistently. As a result, the pressure in the vice has increased to a very painful level.

The Aztecs are coming off a 4-7 season that again demonstrated the hallmark of San Diego State football under Craft: play strong teams well on the road but lose winnable games at home. That has to change in 2005 or it seems likely that his run with the Aztecs could come to an end.

He needs a great season from running back Lynell Hamilton, who ran for 1,087 yards in 2003 before tearing up a knee at the end of the season. Hamilton could not play last year, but he went through spring drills without a problem and declared himself ready to go.

Quarterback Kevin O'Connell was unable to play in the spring after undergoing shoulder surgery, but he should be ready come fall. If not, Craft will turn to veteran Matt Dlugolecki, who has started games in each of the past two seasons.

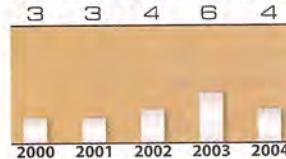
Wide receiver Jeff Webb is a two-time All-MWC pick who had 71 receptions for 863 yards and nine TDs last year.

The Aztecs return only three starters from a defense that gave up 25.6 points per game last year. Linebacker Kirk Morrison was a tackling machine and was selected by the Oakland Raiders in the third round of the NFL Draft.

Freddie Keiaho, redshirt freshman Andrew Schantz and junior Joe Martin all impressed Craft with their range and hitting ability in the spring and have a great chance at starting.

In the secondary, SDSU should get a lift from the return of Jacob Elimian, who played well in 2003 but sat out in 2004.

—Steve Silverman

**FIVE-YEAR WINS TREND****2005 SCHEDULE**

| DATE | OPPONENT | '04 RESULT |
|-------|-----------------|------------|
| S. 3 | UCLA | 10-33 |
| S. 10 | @AIR FORCE | 37-31 |
| S. 17 | @OHIO STATE | |
| S. 24 | San Jose State | |
| O. 1 | Brigham Young | 16-49 |
| O. 8 | @UNLV | 21-3 |
| O. 15 | @UTAH | 28-51 |
| O. 22 | New Mexico | 9-19 |
| O. 29 | TCU | |
| N. 12 | @COLORADO STATE | 17-21 |
| N. 19 | Wyoming | 10-20 |
| D. 3 | @HAWAII | |

Head coach: Tom Craft,
4th Year (14-22)

Career Record: 14-22

Stadium: Qualcomm Stadium

Turf: Grass

Capacity: 54,000

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 20
 Lettermen returning/lost: 44/20

OFFENSE

| | |
|----|-------------------------------------|
| QB | 7 Kevin O'Connell (6-6, 215, So.) |
| HB | 23 Fale Poumele (6-0, 245, Sr.) |
| RB | 22 Lynell Hamilton (6-1, 220, Sr.) |
| LT | 76 Will Robinson (6-6, 270, So.) |
| LG | 63 Taylor Schmidt (6-4, 325, Sr.) |
| C | 59 Nick Smith (6-6, 295, Jr.) |
| RG | 78 Chris Pino (6-5, 330, Sr.) |
| RT | 79 Robert Nelson (6-10, 320, Jr.) |
| TE | 89 Lance Louis (6-3, 260, So.) |
| FL | 1 Chazeray Schilens (6-4, 200, So.) |
| SE | 19 Jeff Webb (6-3, 200, Sr.) |

DEFENSE

| | |
|--------------------|--------------------------------------|
| DE | 93 Antwan Applewhite (6-3, 235, So.) |
| DT | 99 Jonathan Bales (6-1, 305, Jr.) |
| DT | 55 Emil Metroka (6-3, 285, Jr.) |
| DE | 97 Kurt Kahui (6-1, 245, Sr.) |
| WLB | 36 Brett Martin (6-0, 215, So.) |
| MLB | 33 Freddie Keiaho (6-0, 230, Sr.) |
| SLB | 51 Joe Martin (6-1, 225, Jr.) |
| CB | 3 Donny Baker (5-9, 170, Jr.) |
| CB | 39 Jacob Elimian (5-11, 185, Sr.) |
| FS | 21 Marcus Demps (6-1, 205, Sr.) |
| SS | 31 Reggie Grigsby (5-11, 210, Sr.) |
| SPECIALISTS | |
| PK | 14 Garrett Palmer (6-2, 160, So.) |
| P | 17 Michael Hughes (5-10, 170, So.) |

2004 Record: 4-7 overall, 2-5 MWC
Official athletic Web site: www.goaztecs.com

UNLV

REBELS



2004 Record: 2-9 overall, 1-6 MWC

Official athletic Web site: www.unlvrebels.com

After a 2-9 finish, John Robinson's final season on the UNLV sidelines was painful for a veteran coach who took a lot of pride in making the Rebels' football program newsworthy again.

Enter new coach Mike Sanford, who was Urban Meyer's offensive coordinator at Utah. Expect him to install the highly successful spread offense that the Utes used so well last year. Unfortunately for the Rebels, he won't have the No. 1 pick in the NFL Draft, Alex Smith, to run it. Instead, Shane Steichen and junior-college transfer Jarrod Jackson will battle for that honor. Steichen appeared to gain an edge in spring practice.

Erick Jackson has the inside track on being the UNLV feature back. In limited duty last season, he ran for 154 yards and averaged five yards per carry. Wide receiver Donnell Wheaton appears to be the top outside threat, but he is unproven after catching just four passes last year. Tight end Greg Estandia is a huge target (6-8, 255 pounds) with soft hands and good speed.

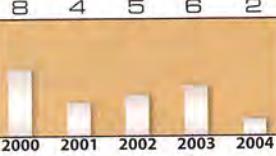
Questions abound on the offensive line as injuries kept guard/tackle Marco Guerra (broken leg, knee), tackle Chris Bowser (two shoulder operations) and guard Zach Gorham (ankle) out of spring drills.

Quite a bit of work needs to be done on defense. The Rebels gave up 32.5 points per game last year, which ranked 98th in the nation. Former Air Force assistant Vic Shealy will take over the defense. His unit should at least be versatile, as the Rebels used both a 4-3 and a 3-4 in the spring.

UNLV returns just three starters from last year's starting defensive team. Shealy hopes he can build around nose guard Howie Fuimaono and end Leon Moore on the defensive line. They need to come through in a big way since the Rebels have lost playmakers like safety Jamal Brimmer and linebackers Adam Seward and Ryan Claridge. Seward and Claridge were fifth-round NFL draft picks.

Beau Bell played quite a bit as a freshman last year. He should become one of the starting linebackers this year and could be joined by senior Bobby Kelly, who looked good in the spring.

—Steve Silverman

FIVE-YEAR WINS TREND**2005 SCHEDULE**

| DATE | OPPONENT | '04 RESULT |
|-------|-----------------|------------|
| S. 3 | @NEW MEXICO | 20-24 |
| S. 10 | Idaho | |
| S. 17 | @NEVADA | 48-13 |
| S. 24 | @UTAH STATE | 21-31 |
| O. 1 | @WYOMING | 45-53 (OT) |
| O. 8 | San Diego State | 3-21 |
| O. 15 | @AIR FORCE | 10-27 |
| O. 22 | Utah | 28-63 |
| N. 5 | Brigham Young | 24-20 |
| N. 12 | @TCU | |
| N. 19 | Colorado State | 10-45 |

Head coach: Mike Sanford,

1st Year (0-0)

Career Record: 0-0

Stadium: Sam Boyd Stadium

Turf: Artificial

Capacity: 36,800

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 10
 Lettermen returning/lost: 48/23

OFFENSE

| | |
|----|------------------------------------|
| QB | 15 Shane Steichen (6-4, 185, Jr.) |
| HB | 24 Alvin Marshall (5-10, 190, Sr.) |
| TB | 26 Erick Jackson (5-6, 180, Jr.) |
| LT | 77 Chris Bowser (6-6, 280, Jr.) |
| LG | 70 Marco Guerra (6-5, 315, Jr.) |
| C | 55 Tim Goins (6-4, 280, So.) |
| RG | 68 Zach Gorham (6-5, 315, Sr.) |
| RT | 79 Jesse Knight (6-4, 265, Sr.) |
| TE | 86 Greg Estandia (6-8, 255, Sr.) |
| WR | 9 Donnell Wheaton (6-0, 185, Jr.) |
| WR | 80 Casey Flair (6-1, 185, Jr.) |

DEFENSE

| | |
|--------------------|-----------------------------------|
| LE | 98 Leon Moore (6-5, 285, Sr.) |
| NG | 92 Howie Fuimaono (6-0, 320, Jr.) |
| RE | 99 Mario Hill (6-2, 265, Sr.) |
| WLB | 47 Beau Bell (6-3, 230, So.) |
| MLB | 35 Dan Catalano (6-3, 230, Jr.) |
| SLB | 34 Matt Pattison (6-3, 220, Jr.) |
| LCB | 14 Ernest Gordon (6-1, 170, Jr.) |
| RCB | 1 John Guice (5-9, 180, Jr.) |
| LS | 45 Joe Miklos (6-2, 210, Sr.) |
| RS | 8 Will Tagoai (6-3, 205, Sr.) |
| NICK | 6 Chanti Bloomer (6-0, 195, Sr.) |
| SPECIALISTS | |
| PK | 10 Sergio Aguayo (6-1, 200, So.) |
| P | 49 Brian Pacheco (5-11, 200, Jr.) |



MID AMERICAN CONFERENCE PREDICTED ORDER OF FINISH:

EAST



Games to watch:

>> **Miami at Northern Illinois**, Oct. 5

Will this Wednesday contest preview the MAC Championship Game?

>> **Bowling Green at Miami (Ohio)**, Nov. 15

The first of two games in two days that will decide division races.

>> **Northern Illinois at Toledo**, Nov. 18

The Huskies look to win at Toledo for the first time since 1972.

official conference website:
www.mac-sports.com

Street & Smith's ALL-CONFERENCE

Offense

| | |
|----|-----------------------------------|
| QB | Omar Jacobs, Jr., Bowl. Green |
| RB | Brett Biggs, Sr., Akron |
| RB | Garrett Wolfe, Jr., N. Illinois |
| DL | Doug Free, Jr., Northern Illinois |
| DL | Rob Warren, Sr., Bowling Green |
| DL | Todd Lendot, Sr., Miami |
| DL | Kory Lichtensteiger, So., BGSU |
| DL | Ben Lueck, Sr., Northern Illinois |
| WR | Eric Deslauriers, Jr., E. Mich. |
| WR | Greg Jennings, Sr., W. Michigan |
| TE | Andrew Clarke, Sr., Toledo |
| PK | Andrew Wellock, Jr., E. Mich. |

Defense

| | |
|----|-----------------------------------|
| DL | Dan Bazuin, Jr., Cent. Michigan |
| DL | Quince Holman, Sr., N. Illinois |
| DL | Marcus Johnson, Sr., Miami |
| DL | Justin Parrish, Jr., Kent State |
| LB | John Busing, Sr., Miami |
| LB | Javan Lee, Sr., Northern Illinois |
| LB | Terna Nende, Sr., Miami |
| DB | Darrell Hunter, Sr., Miami |
| DB | Keon Jackson, Sr., Toledo |
| DB | Nigel Morris, So., Toledo |
| DB | Gemara Williams, Sr., Buffalo |
| P | Matt Miller, Sr., Ohio |

This year's race should hearken back to your father's old Mid-American

By Jon Wagner
The Toledo Blade

As the Mid-American Conference prepares for the 2005 season, it also prepares to step forward into the past.

What does that mean? This season MAC football may start to more closely resemble the league your father remembers. To wit:

- Gone are carpetbaggers Marshall and Central Florida, both of whom were MAC members less than 10 seasons before bolting for Conference USA.

- Bowling Green returns to the MAC's East Division—and yearly games against longtime rivals such as Miami, Kent State and Ohio—after three seasons in the West.

- After seeing an unprecedented five schools play in postseason bowls, the MAC probably will return to its recent history of two bowl bids.

- The teams that normally find themselves at the top of the league probably will be battling for a berth in the MAC Championship Game this year as well.

In fact, the front-runners to win berths in the championship game, which is played at Detroit's Ford Field, are the two teams that clashed there last season: Miami and Toledo.

The RedHawks are the favorites in the East thanks in part to their recent dominance in MAC play. Miami has won 15 of its last 16 regular-season league games and back-to-back East crowns, and many of the players responsible for those gaudy numbers are back this fall.

The RedHawks' main competition will come from old/new East Division rival Bowling Green, which is coming off consecutive bowl bids for

Rating the recruits

1. Akron

SuperPrep says Zips signed three 3-star recruits. Rest of MAC? Only two.

2. Northern Illinois

Well-rounded class plucked mainly from Chicago area.

3. Central Michigan

The chance to play right away was enticing, but just seven Michigan players.

4. Toledo

Nine states and one Canadian province represented, with five Florida recruits.

5. Ohio

Solich's first class has 12 Ohioans—and one Nebraskan.

6. Western Michigan

Florida athlete E.J. Biggers the "big" prize in this class.

7. Bowling Green

Rhett Megner signed to replace do-everything brother Cole, who graduated.

8. Kent State

J.C. quarterback Michael Machen expected to have an immediate impact.

9. Buffalo

Eighteen of 25 recruits will start their careers on offense.

10. Ball State

Tough to match previous year's class, which included MAC Freshman of the Year.

11. Eastern Michigan

Solid class drawn mainly from Michigan (11 players).

12. Miami

Small class (13 players) hurt recruiting ranking.

the first time in more than 10 seasons. With record-setting quarterback Omar Jacobs returning, the Falcons will be able to outscore almost anyone on their schedule.

In the West the favorite is defending champ Toledo. The Rockets were a trendy preseason pick for the Top 25 early last season, but plenty of ankles were turned jumping off the bandwagon after Toledo surrendered 63 points in their first two games.

With a lighter bandwagon, the Rockets bounced back to rip off eight wins in their next nine games to post their 11th straight winning season and third bowl appearance in the last four years. Injuries to star quarterback Bruce Gradkowski and tailback Scooter McDougle played a key role in Toledo's misleading loss to Connecticut in the Motor City Bowl.

The Rockets' chief rival will be Northern Illinois, which has shared the division crown in three of the past four seasons. But the Huskies have struggled head-to-head against Toledo and probably will need to beat the Rockets on the road for the first time since 1972 to claim NIU's first MAC Championship Game berth.

Don't expect this "blast from the past" to last long, however. Changes facing the MAC in the near future are Temple's entry into the league as a full member in 2007, as well as a new bowl based in Toronto offering the league a third bowl bid.

Rating the players

Fastest receiver **Ryne Robinson, Miami**

Best hands **Eric Deslauriers, WR, Eastern Michigan**

Best passing QB **Omar Jacobs, Bowling Green**

Most elusive RB **Jabari Arthur, Akron**

Best instincts **Jerry Seymour, Central Michigan**

Best athlete **Greg Jennings, WR, Western Michigan**

Best under pressure **Terna Nende, LB, Miami**

Top NFL prospect **Bruce Gradkowski, QB, Toledo**

Top impact freshman **Darrell Hunter, DB, Miami**

Harshest hitter **Nick Moore, WR, Toledo**

Biggest underachiever **Brett Biggs, RB, Akron**

Anthony Sherrell, RB, Eastern Michigan

Rating the coaches

Best strategist **Gregg Brandon, Bowling Green**

Best recruiter **J.D. Brookhart, Akron**

Coach on the spot **Jim Hoffer, Buffalo**

Don't be surprised if ...

New coach Bill Cubit engineers a big turnaround at Western Michigan. History shows the MAC's most successful rookie coaches are those who have talented quarterbacks and receivers, and Cubit has that with his son Ryan throwing to Greg Jennings.

One man's opinion

"I really like the way he plays. Ray plays like he has stuck his finger in an electrical socket. He makes things happen."

—Northern Illinois coach Joe Novak on NIU strong safety Ray Smith



Andrew Wellock,
Eastern Michigan

OXFORD, OHIO

004 Record: 8-5 overall, 7-1 MAC (lost to Iowa State in the Independence Bowl, 17-13)

Tadium: Yager Stadium

Official athletic Web site: www.muredhawks.com

MIAMI REDHAWKS



Turf: Artificial

Capacity: 27,000



FIVE-YEAR WINS TREND

| | | | | |
|------|------|------|------|------|
| 6 | 7 | 7 | 13 | 8 |
| 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 |

PRESEASON RANK:

1

Head coach: Shane Montgomery, 1st Year (0-0) Career Record: 0-0
Assistant coaches: Taver Johnson (def. coord.), DeAndre Smith (running game coord./RBs), Brian Von Bergen (passing game coord./WRs), Craig Aukerman (LBS), Tim Cooper (def. backs), Matt Hohman (off. line), Jay Hood (def. line), Bret Ingalls (tackles/TEs), Rusty Wright (special teams coord./def. asst.)



MARCUS JOHNSON, JR.

RedHawks shouldn't skip a beat under new coach as 15 senior starters return from last year's bowl team

When RedHawks Athletics Director Brad Bates made the announcement that Shane Montgomery would replace Terry Hoeppner as head coach, he did so in an unusual manner.

Bates told the world the news in the Miami locker room prior to last year's Independence Bowl—with ESPN cameras capturing the moment.

While Montgomery, who spent the past four seasons as the team's offensive coordinator, can thank Bates for the promotion, he can also thank Hoeppner for leaving the cupboard full for another run at a MAC championship.

Miami returns 15 senior starters, including eight two-year starters, as it hunts for its 12th consecutive winning season and third straight bowl bid.

The offense returns quarterback Josh Betts, who threw for 3,495 yards and 23 TDs in his first year replacing Ben Roethlisberger, as well as four of five starters on the offensive line and the squad's top four receivers.

Todd Londot, a four-year starter who has been named second-team All-MAC each of the past two seasons, will anchor the line from the center position with help from three-year starter Mark Kracium at left tackle and 337-pound Nate Bunce, a three-year regular who moves to right guard.

The wide receiver position will benefit from the return of Martin Nance, who played in only five games last season before suffering a season-ending injury.

The only question mark on offense for the RedHawks is at running back, where their two top runners were lost to graduation. Sophomore Brandon Murphy, who ran for 248 yards and four scores on just 48 carries last year, is the front-runner for that position.

Seven starters return on defense, led by three returning senior starters at linebacker in John Busing, Terna Nande and Derek Rehage, a trio that combined for 258 tackles last season. Depth isn't a problem here, either, as five of the top six players are seniors and the sixth is a junior.

First-team All-MAC senior Marcus Johnson leads the defensive line from his end position, while Jarrod Rich also is back at right tackle.

The secondary will be the big question for the RedHawks after the loss of two All-MAC players to graduation. Senior Darrell Hunter will be expected to lead at cornerback, while safeties Steve Burke and Joey Card are recovering from injuries.

On special teams the player to watch is junior Ryne Robinson, whose two punt returns for touchdowns in '04 gave him five in two seasons.



JOSH BETTS, QB

2005 SCHEDULE

| DATE | OPPONENT | '04 RESULT |
|-------|--------------------|------------|
| S. 3 | @OHIO STATE | |
| S. 10 | Central Michigan | |
| S. 17 | @KENT STATE | 47-27 |
| S. 28 | Cincinnati | 26-45 |
| 0. 5 | @NORTHERN ILLINOIS | |
| 0. 15 | Akron | 37-27 |
| 0. 22 | @EASTERN MICHIGAN | |
| 0. 29 | @TEMPLE | |
| N. 5 | Buffalo | 25-7 |
| N. 15 | Bowling Green | |
| N. 21 | @OHIO | 40-20 |

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 17
Lettermen returning/lost: 40/16

OFFENSE

| | | |
|----|----|--------------------------------|
| QB | 8 | Josh Betts (6-3, 219, Sr.) |
| TB | 24 | Brandon Murphy (5-8, 189, So.) |
| LT | 75 | Mark Kracium (6-5, 286, Sr.) |
| LG | 72 | Steve Meister (6-2, 293, So.) |
| C | 62 | Todd Londot (6-7, 308, Sr.) |
| RG | 79 | Nate Bunce (6-7, 337, Sr.) |
| RT | 76 | Charlie Norden (6-6, 314, So.) |
| TE | 89 | Dan Tyler (6-5, 244, Sr.) |
| WR | 82 | R.J. Corbin (6-1, 203, Jr.) |
| WR | 15 | Martin Nance (6-5, 215, Sr.) |
| WR | 2 | Ryne Robinson (5-10, 169, Jr.) |

DEFENSE

| | | |
|-----|----|--------------------------------|
| LE | 93 | Marcus Johnson (6-3, 260, Sr.) |
| LT | 65 | John Glavin (6-0, 278, Sr.) |
| RT | 44 | Jarrod Rich (6-3, 267, Sr.) |
| RE | 58 | Craig Mester (6-5, 242, So.) |
| OLB | 12 | John Busing (6-4, 228, Sr.) |
| MLB | 38 | Derek Rehage (6-2, 239, Sr.) |
| OLB | 32 | Terna Nande (6-1, 228, Sr.) |
| CB | 21 | Ryan Redd (5-10, 183, Sr.) |
| CB | 28 | Darrell Hunter (6-1, 213, Sr.) |
| FS | 36 | Steve Burke (6-0, 187, Sr.) |
| SS | 1 | Joey Card (6-0, 197, Jr.) |

SPECIALISTS

| | | |
|----|----|----------------------------------|
| PK | 35 | Todd Soderquist (6-2, 210, Sr.) |
| P | 4 | Jacob Richardson (6-1, 189, Fr.) |

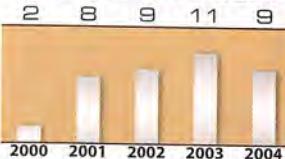
BOWLING GREEN

FALCONS



2004 Record: 9-3 overall, 6-2 MAC
 (beat Memphis in the GMAC Bowl, 52-35)
Official athletic Web site: www.bgsufalcons.com

FIVE-YEAR WINS TREND



2005 SCHEDULE

| DATE | OPPONENT | '04 RESULT |
|-------|------------------|------------|
| S. 3 | @WISCONSIN | |
| S. 10 | @BALL STATE | 51-13 |
| S. 21 | @BOISE STATE | |
| O. 1 | Temple | 70-16 |
| O. 8 | Ohio | 41-16 |
| O. 15 | @BUFFALO | |
| O. 22 | Western Michigan | 52-0 |
| O. 29 | Akron | |
| N. 5 | @KENT STATE | |
| N. 15 | @MIAMI (OH) | |
| N. 22 | Toledo | 41-49 |

Head coach: Gregg Brandon,
 3rd Year (20-6)

Career Record: 20-6

Stadium: Doyt Perry Stadium

Turf: Grass

Capacity: 28,599

PROJECTED STARTERS

| |
|---|
| Starters returning: 13 |
| Lettermen returning/lost: 50/19 |
| OFFENSE |
| QB 4 Omar Jacobs (6-4, 224, r-Jr.) |
| TB 33 P.J. Pope (5-9, 216, Sr.) |
| LT 58 Rob Warren (6-6, 296, Sr.) |
| LG 78 Kory Lichtensteiger (6-3, 300, r-So.) |
| C 68 John Lanning (6-4, 294, r-Jr.) |
| RG 70 Derrick Markay (6-5, 341, r-Jr.) |
| RT 71 Drew Nystrom (6-5, 304, r-So.) |
| TE 88 Sean O'Drobinak (6-4, 248, r-So.) |
| WR 1 Charles Sharon (6-1, 178, Sr.) |
| WR 12 Steve Sanders (6-3, 201, Sr.) |
| WR 6 Brandon Jones (6-0, 167, r-Jr.) |
| DEFENSE |
| DE 92 Brad Williams (6-3, 259, r-Jr.) |
| NG 77 Mike Thaler (6-1, 281, Sr.) |
| DT 91 Monte Cooley (6-2, 276, Sr.) |
| DE 57 Devon Parks (6-3, 239, Jr.) |
| WLB 5 Teddy Piepkow (6-0, 228, Sr.) |
| MLB 56 Jamien Johnson (6-1, 232, Sr.) |
| SLB 48 Terrel White (5-10, 232, r-Jr.) |
| CB 20 Terrill Mayberry (5-11, 169, Sr.) |
| CB 2 Jelani Jordan (5-10, 177, Sr.) |
| FS 25 Tim Arnold (5-9, 200, Sr.) |
| SS 31 Mike Crumpler (5-11, 191, Sr.) |
| SPECIALISTS |
| PK 87 Josef Timchenko (6-4, 221, Sr.) |
| P 46 Nate Fry (5-10, 211, Sr.) |

Last season the Falcons were faced with the task of replacing one of the most prolific quarterbacks in the program's history when do-everything signal-caller Josh Harris was drafted into the NFL.

Problem? No problem.

Omar Jacobs, only a sophomore, stepped forward and became the MAC's Offensive Player of the Year. He led the nation with 41 touchdown passes while throwing just four interceptions, finishing with 4,002 yards passing and helping the Falcons set a MAC record by averaging 44.3 points per game.

After that, replacing five starters on offense and five more on defense doesn't seem quite so daunting, does it?

Yes, there are holes on both sides of the ball. On offense, the biggest gaps are on the offensive line, where All-MAC performer Scott Mruczkowski and two other starters were lost to graduation. But the two returnees, Kory Lichtensteiger and Rob Warren, both earned all-league honors last fall.

Jacobs will have two of his favorite pass-catching targets back in seniors Charles Sharon, who set a school record with 15 TD receptions, and Steve Sanders, who averaged nearly 18 yards per catch.

Two-time all-league back P.J. Pope also returns for his senior season after back-to-back 1,000-yard rushing seasons. Last year he also caught 50 passes, and his 126 points tied for most in the conference.

Plugging the gaps on defense won't be quite so easy, though. Four of the five players lost earned All-MAC honors last season, and among the missing are three of the team's top four tacklers.

The Falcons return plenty of experience on the defensive line, including two-year starters Mike Thaler, a two-time team captain, and Devon Parks, who tied for the team lead with four sacks.

Teddy Piepkow is the only returning linebacker; senior Jamien Johnson and junior Terrel White have experience, but now will be expected to step up their level of play as first-time starters.

The defensive backfield returns two starters in cornerbacks Terrill Mayberry and Jelani Jordan.

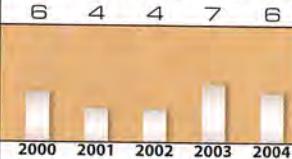
AKRON

ZIPS



2004 Record: 6-5 overall, 6-2 MAC
Official athletic Web site: www.gozips.com

FIVE-YEAR WINS TREND



2005 SCHEDULE

| DATE | OPPONENT | '04 RESULT |
|-------|-----------------------|------------|
| S. 10 | @PURDUE | |
| S. 17 | @MIDDLE TENNESSEE ST. | 24-31 |
| S. 24 | Northern Illinois | 19-49 |
| O. 1 | Central Michigan | |
| O. 8 | @BUFFALO | 44-21 |
| O. 15 | @MIAMI (OH) | 27-37 |
| O. 22 | Army | |
| O. 29 | @BOWLING GREEN | |
| N. 5 | @BALL STATE | 35-23 |
| N. 15 | Ohio | 31-19 |
| N. 23 | Kent State | 24-19 |

Head coach: J.D. Brookhart,
 2nd Year (6-5)

Career Record: 6-5

Stadium: Rubber Bowl

Turf: Artificial

Capacity: 31,000

PROJECTED STARTERS

| |
|---|
| Starters returning: 16 |
| Lettermen returning/lost: 42/19 |
| OFFENSE |
| QB 16 Luke Getsy (6-2, 220, Jr.) |
| FB 22 Richard Spaulding (6-2, 220, Sr.) |
| RB 34 Brett Biggs (5-9, 190, Sr.) |
| LT 72 Tim Crouch (6-3, 290, Jr.) |
| LG 75 Mike Donaldson (6-5, 295, Jr.) |
| C 63 Andy Willis (6-3, 295, Jr.) |
| RG 57 Andy Alleman (6-4, 292, Jr.) |
| RT 76 Justin Hein (6-5, 315, Sr.) |
| TE 84 Kris Kasparek (6-6, 265, So.) |
| WR 81 Jason Montgomery (5-11, 170, Sr.) |
| WR 23 Domenik Hixon (6-2, 192, Sr.) |
| DEFENSE |
| DE 99 Jermaine Reid (6-4, 270, Jr.) |
| NG 97 Kiki Gonzalez (6-2, 300, Sr.) |
| DT 48 Brian White (6-2, 275, Sr.) |
| BAN 90 Kevin Grant (6-2, 235, r-Fr.) |
| SLB 35 Jay Rohr (5-11, 220, Sr.) |
| MLB 52 Bryan Howe (6-0, 230, So.) |
| ROV 7 Parris McNeal (6-0, 200, Jr.) |
| CB 29 Reggie Corner (5-9, 175, Jr.) |
| CB 20 Dionte Henry (5-11, 191, Jr.) |
| FS 27 Dion Elie (6-0, 195, Sr.) |
| SS 10 Chevin Pace (5-10, 190, So.) |
| SPECIALISTS |
| PK 36 Jason Swiger (5-8, 180, Sr.) |
| P 14 Bill Sullivan (5-11, 179, Sr.) |

After four years engineering the Zips' offense—and setting nearly every passing record in school history—quarterback Charlie Frye has taken his talents to the NFL.

And while it might sound crazy, coach J.D. Brookhart and his staff might turn to a wide receiver as Frye's replacement.

Actually, that isn't as crazy as it sounds. That wide receiver is sophomore Jabari Arthur, a talented athlete who ran pass routes last fall while serving as Frye's backup. Arthur, who caught more passes (23) than he threw (9) last season, will be challenged by junior Luke Getsy. Getsy transferred to Akron from Pittsburgh, where he played in nine games as a sophomore and was coached by Brookhart.

Whoever wins the starter's job will have a strong group of receivers as targets, led by seniors Domenik Hixon (66 catches, 882 yards, 6 TDs) and Jason Montgomery (42, 466, 4).

The quarterback situation will push the Zips to focus more on ball control, which will give senior running back Brett Biggs a bigger role in the offense. Last season the junior-college transfer finished with nearly 1,500 all-purpose yards.

Akron will also have to replace four of its five starters on the offensive line from last year, with only left tackle Tim Crouch returning.

The defense also may prove to be an interesting riddle for Brookhart, who last year came within a game of steering the Zips to the MAC Championship contest and earned the league's Coach of the Year award. While seven starters are back on defense, the losses include the team's top three tacklers.

The team's strength on that side of the ball will be its secondary, which is led by sophomore strong safety Chevin Pace and returns all four starters. Kiki Gonzalez, a 300-pound nose guard in his third year as a starter, will be flanked by returning starter Brian White and junior Jermaine Reid.

Akron will be young and inexperienced at linebacker. Senior Jay Rohr is the only returning starter, and his experience is limited to the final five games of last season. Sophomore Bryan Howe and redshirt freshman Kevin Grant will be asked to step forward and play significant roles.

KENT STATE**DEN FLASHERS**

KENT, OHIO



2004 Record: 5-6 overall, 4-4 MAC

Official athletic Web site: www.kentstatesports.com

Which team is it?

Will this year's Golden Flashes look like the team that took the field for the first part of last season? That squad went 5-6, with its only victory coming against a Division I-AA squad, and gave up an average of more than 30 points a game.

Or will the Flashes more closely resemble the team that finished the season with a four-game winning streak? That team outscored its opponents 185-64 in building the school's longest win streak in almost 30 years.

To make sure it isn't the former, Kent State will need several pieces to fall into place. The biggest piece is at quarterback, where the current group of signal-callers has thrown a combined four passes for the Golden Flashes.

The development of Michael Machen, a junior-college transfer who originally attended Alabama, is critical following the graduation of All-MAC quarterback Joshua Cribbs.

There is also a question at running back, where Luke Tillman has been moved from tight end and Jon Drager looks to bounce back from a knee injury that cost him all of last season.

Kent State's six returnees on offense are spread between wide receiver, where both Derrick Bush and Najah Pruden are back, and the offensive line, where three-year regular Daniel Carter anchors a group of four returning starters.

Seven starters return on defense in hopes of continuing last year's turnaround. "Buck" linebacker Justin Parrish is back after setting a school record with 14 sacks, while fellow senior Jon Sessler was second on the team with 77 tackles.

A key for the Flashes will be how Bruce Rice adapts in switching from a down position to the middle linebacker spot as a replacement for All-MAC performer Eric Mahl.

DATE OPPONENT

| | |
|-------|--------------------------|
| S. 3 | @MICHIGAN STATE |
| S. 10 | Southeast Missouri State |
| S. 17 | Miami (OH) |
| S. 24 | @OHIO |
| O. 1 | @EASTERN MICHIGAN |
| O. 15 | @NAVY |
| O. 22 | Northern Illinois |
| O. 29 | @WESTERN MICHIGAN |
| N. 5 | Bowling Green |
| N. 12 | Buffalo |
| N. 23 | @AKRON |

Head coach:Doug Martin,
2nd Year (5-6)**Career Record:** 5-6**Stadium:**

Dix Stadium

Turf: Artificial**Capacity:** 29,287**BUFFALO****BULLS**

BUFFALO, N.Y.



2004 Record: 2-9 overall, 2-6 MAC

Official athletic Web site: www.ubathletics.buffalo.edu

It would be easy to say this is a make-or-break season for Bulls coach Jim Hofher. Truth is, 2005 is a make-or-break season for the entire Buffalo football program.

The Bulls have posted a 9-59 record since entering the MAC in 1999 and have just six league wins in six seasons. Hofher, who is 7-39 in four seasons building the program, received a contract extension in April, but is signed only through 2006.

But Hofher knows the time is now for the Bulls to produce. This season Buffalo features 20 seniors and has 16 returning starters who have started a whopping 369 games in their careers. What's more, the Bulls need look no farther than the school's basketball team, which came within a whisker of winning the league title, for proof that success in the MAC is possible.

Buffalo's newfound combination of depth and senior leadership is best modeled by its defense, particularly on the line. The Bulls have six seniors back up front on a group that has combined for 109 career starts. Ends Phil Jacques, a three-year starter, and Aaron Sanders, who had 12 tackles for loss and three recovered fumbles, will lead the way.

Two seniors, Bryan Cummings and Rich Sanders, return at linebacker after combining for 142 stops last season in the Bulls' 4-2-5 scheme. "Whip" linebacker James Vann is also back, as are starting cornerbacks James Evans and Gemara Williams.

In all, there are nine defensive starters returning, with depth coming from sources such as senior Aaron Leeper. Leeper moved from running back to corner in the spring of 2004, but missed last season because of a summer shoulder injury.

Seven starters return on offense, a unit that would be even more experienced if quarterback P.J. Piskorik and center Eric Weber hadn't been lost to academics. The loss of Piskorik is painful, since it leaves the QB position so inexperienced.

DATE OPPONENT

| | |
|-------|-------------------|
| S. 1 | @CONNECTICUT |
| S. 10 | @SYRACUSE |
| S. 17 | Rutgers |
| O. 1 | @WESTERN MICHIGAN |
| O. 8 | Akron |
| O. 15 | Bowling Green |
| O. 22 | @TOLEDO |
| O. 29 | Ohio |
| N. 5 | @MIAMI (OH) |
| N. 12 | @KENT STATE |
| N. 19 | Eastern Michigan |

Head coach:Jim Hofher,
5th Year (7-39)**Career Record:** 51-75**Stadium:**

University of Buffalo Stadium

Turf: Grass**Capacity:** 31,000**OHIO****BOBCATS**

ATHENS, OHIO

2004 Record: 4-7 overall, 2-6 MAC

Official athletic Web site: www.ohiobobcats.com

Frank Solich was named the Bobcats' new coach last December, and the excitement around Athens, Ohio, is palpable.

Inside the program, players improved their work habits during offseason conditioning workouts, and spirits were raised during spring drills. Off the field, ticket sales were up, as was statewide interest in the Bobcats.

The change is simple to explain: Solich won 58 games in six seasons at Nebraska, leading the Cornhuskers to six bowl berths. The Ohio program would have to include all of its victories since 1987—a span of 18 seasons—to equal Solich's win total, and the school hasn't been to a bowl game since 1968.

While the change in attitude may be easy to understand, changing the fortunes of the Bobcats on the field probably will prove to be a little more difficult. Ohio has needs on both sides of the ball that will limit its ability to close the gap between it and the East's top teams.

Six starters are back on offense, but among the missing are the Bobcats' starting quarterback, top receiver and second-leading rusher.

Quarterback Austin Everson has seen considerable action in the past two seasons and has shown the ability to run the option attack Solich favors. Like Everson, Kelvin McRae will also be asked to step up his game and give Ohio a dependable feature back after rushing for 559 yards last season.

The offensive line has two returnees Solich will look to build around in guards Matt Coppage and Matt Miller.

On defense, eight starters are back, but among the missing are three of the Bobcats' top four tacklers. The new coaching staff has also switched to a 4-3 alignment, and a new emphasis on speed will determine how many of those eight see regular action this fall.

DATE OPPONENT

| | |
|-------|-------------------|
| S. 3 | @NORTHWESTERN |
| S. 10 | Pittsburgh |
| S. 17 | @VIRGINIA TECH |
| S. 24 | Kent State |
| O. 8 | @BOWLING GREEN |
| O. 15 | @CENTRAL MICHIGAN |
| O. 22 | Ball State |
| O. 29 | @BUFFALO |
| N. 4 | Toledo |
| N. 15 | @AKRON |
| N. 21 | Miami (OH) |

Head coach:Frank Solich,
1st Year (0-0)**Career Record:** 58-19**Stadium:**

Peden Stadium

Turf: Artificial**Capacity:** 24,000



BRUCE GRADKOWSKI, QB

TOLEDO ROCKETS

TOLEDO, OH

2004 Record: 9-4 overall, 7-1 MAC (lost to Connecticut in the Motor City Bowl, 39-10)

Stadium: Glass Bowl

Turf: Artificial

Capacity: 26,248

Official athletic Web site: www.utrockets.com

PRESEASON RANK:

1

FIVE-YEAR WINS TREND

10 10 9 8 9
2000 2001 2002 2003 2004

Head coach: Tom Amstutz, 5th Year (36-15) Career Record: 36-15

Assistant coaches: John Shannon (off. coord.), Tim Rose (def. coord.), Mike Devlin (off. line), Doug Downing (RBs), Chris Hedden (TEs), Randall McCray (LBs), David Walkosky (OLBs), Dennis Winston (def. line), Jon Carr (WRs)



2005 SCHEDULE

| DATE | OPPONENT | '04 RESULT |
|-------|-------------------|------------|
| S. 1 | Western Illinois | |
| S. 10 | Western Michigan | 59-33 |
| S. 17 | @TEMPLE | 45-17 |
| S. 27 | @FRESNO STATE | |
| O. 8 | Eastern Michigan | 42-32 |
| O. 15 | @BALL STATE | 52-14 |
| O. 22 | Buffalo | |
| O. 29 | @CENTRAL MICHIGAN | 27-22 |
| N. 4 | @OHIO | 31-13 |
| N. 16 | Northern Illinois | 31-17 |
| N. 22 | @BOWLING GREEN | 49-41 |

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 16
Lettermen returning/lost: 34/14

OFFENSE

| | | |
|----|----|----------------------------------|
| QB | 7 | Bruce Gradkowski (6-2, 210, Sr.) |
| RB | 10 | Scooter McDougle (6-1, 220, Jr.) |
| LT | 79 | John Greco (6-5, 315, So.) |
| LG | 64 | Dave Perkins (6-2, 290, So.) |
| C | 70 | Hassan Adebesin (6-2, 292, Jr.) |
| RG | 76 | Chris Wakeman (6-5, 290, Sr.) |
| RT | 63 | Jerry Aguwa (6-5, 290, Jr.) |
| TE | 86 | Josh Powell (6-5, 240, Jr.) |
| WR | 5 | Trumaine Smith (6-3, 180, r-Fr.) |
| WR | 22 | Pete Lepley (6-1, 200, Sr.) |
| WR | 80 | Steve Odom (5-10, 165, Jr.) |

DEFENSE

| | | |
|-----|----|----------------------------------|
| DE | 57 | Bernard Faithful (6-3, 225, So.) |
| DT | 96 | J.P. Bekasiak (6-5, 272, Jr.) |
| DT | 61 | Tyree Pollard (6-4, 310, So.) |
| DE | 92 | Sean Williamson (6-2, 287, So.) |
| WLB | 15 | Mike Chamberlain (6-2, 196, Jr.) |
| ILB | 40 | Anthony Jordan (6-3, 230, Sr.) |
| ILB | 8 | David Thomas (6-2, 230, Sr.) |
| ROV | 6 | Keon Jackson (5-11, 206, Sr.) |
| CB | 30 | Antonio Malone (6-1, 186, Sr.) |
| CB | 37 | Nigel Morris (6-0, 164, r-So.) |
| FS | 28 | Tyrell Herbst (6-2, 180, So.) |

SPECIALISTS

| | | |
|----|----|--------------------------------|
| PK | 24 | Jason Robbins (5-10, 158, Sr.) |
| P | 41 | Brett Kern (6-3, 185, So.) |

Despite losing both coordinators, Rockets up to task of defending title

It's a simple fact of college football life: teams lose key contributors after every season. And so it is with the Rockets, who must replace eight starters and 14 letter-winners from last season's MAC champions.

But two other important contributors—offensive coordinator Rob Spence and defensive coordinator Lou West—are gone as well. And Toledo's chances of repeating as West champs may hinge more on how well their replacements perform than on the new players taking the field.

John Shannon, the Rockets' receivers coach last season, takes over on offense for Spence, who left to become offensive coordinator at Clemson. So, change there will be limited. Of course, who would change an offense that averaged 459.2 yards and 33.2 points per game a season ago?

Six starters from that productive offense return, led by senior quarterback Bruce Gradkowski. Last year Gradkowski completed more than 70 percent of his passes for the second straight season, throwing for 3,518 yards and 27 scores.

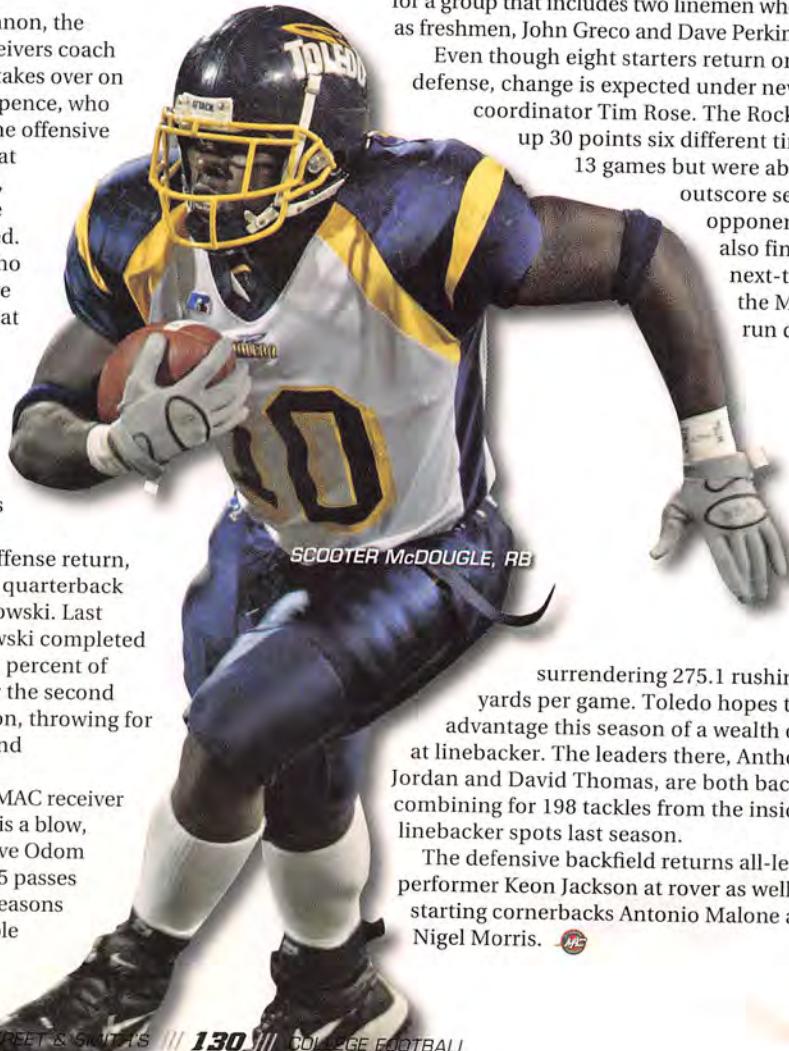
Losing All-MAC receiver Lance Moore is a blow, but junior Steve Odom has caught 115 passes the past two seasons and is a capable

alternative. Senior Andrew Clarke, an all-league pick two years who missed last season following a hip injury, also provides a talented outlet for Gradkowski's passes.

There is plenty of talent at running back, led by 220-pound jackhammer Scooter McDougle, while seniors Trinity Dawson and Quinton Broussard could start for most other MAC teams.

The offensive line will be without four-time All-MAC pick Nick Kaczur and David Odenthal, but senior Chris Wakeman should provide leadership for a group that includes two linemen who started as freshmen, John Greco and Dave Perkins.

Even though eight starters return on defense, change is expected under new coordinator Tim Rose. The Rockets gave up 30 points six different times in 13 games but were able to outscore several opponents. They also finished next-to-last in the MAC in run defense,



SCOOTER McDouggle, RB

surrendering 275.1 rushing yards per game. Toledo hopes to take advantage this season of a wealth of talent at linebacker. The leaders there, Anthony Jordan and David Thomas, are both back after combining for 198 tackles from the inside linebacker spots last season.

The defensive backfield returns all-league performer Keon Jackson at rover as well as starting cornerbacks Antonio Malone and Nigel Morris.

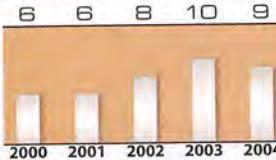


NORTHERN ILLINOIS HUSKIES

Record: 9-3 overall, 7-1 MAC
Troy in the Silicon Valley Classic, 34-21
Official athletic Web site: www.niuhuskies.com



FIVE-YEAR WINS TREND



2005 SCHEDULE

| DATE | OPPONENT | '04 RESULT |
|-------|-------------------|------------|
| S. 3 | @MICHIGAN | |
| S. 10 | @NORTHWESTERN | |
| S. 17 | Tennessee Tech | |
| S. 24 | @AKRON | 49-19 |
| O. 5 | Miami (OH) | |
| O. 15 | Eastern Michigan | 34-16 |
| O. 22 | @KENT STATE | |
| O. 29 | Ball State | 38-31 (OT) |
| N. 5 | @CENTRAL MICHIGAN | 42-10 |
| N. 16 | @TOLEDO | 17-31 |
| N. 22 | Western Michigan | 59-38 |

Head coach: Joe Novak,

10th Year (47-55)

Career Record: 47-55

Stadium: Huskie Stadium

Turf: Artificial

Capacity: 28,000

PROJECTED STARTERS

| |
|---------------------------------------|
| Starters returning: 15 |
| Lettermen returning/lost: 37/21 |
| OFFENSE |
| QB 3 Phil Horvath (6-2, 200, Jr.) |
| TB 1 Garrett Wolfe (5-7, 174, Jr.) |
| LT 62 Doug Free (6-6, 290, Jr.) |
| LG 79 Ben Lueck (6-4, 310, Sr.) |
| C 65 Brian Van Acker (6-4, 287, Sr.) |
| RG 68 Jake Ebenhoch (6-4, 295, Sr.) |
| RT 58 George Daglas (6-4, 286, Sr.) |
| TE 86 Jake Nordin (6-4, 253, Jr.) |
| SE 84 Sam Hurd (6-2, 187, Sr.) |
| FL 5 Marcus Perez (5-10, 170, So.) |
| WR 87 Brandon Davis (6-3, 260, So.) |
| DEFENSE |
| LE 96 Quince Holman (6-3, 261, Sr.) |
| NT 98 Eric Pittman (6-2, 272, Jr.) |
| DT 92 Adam Schroeder (6-4, 277, So.) |
| RE 34 Ken West (6-3, 235, Jr.) |
| WLB 47 Javan Lee (6-2, 222, Sr.) |
| MLB 85 Jason Hutton (6-1, 239, Sr.) |
| SLB 43 T.J. Griffin (6-0, 218, Fr.) |
| CB 12 Adriel Hansbro (5-10, 174, Jr.) |
| CB 11 Alvah Hansbro (5-10, 175, Jr.) |
| FS 8 Mark Reiter (6-1, 192, So.) |
| SS 48 Ray Smith (6-2, 185, Sr.) |
| SPECIALISTS |
| PK 25 Chris Nendick (5-11, 160, So.) |
| P 45 Jason Baez (5-9, 168, So.) |

SPECIALISTS

| |
|--------------------------------------|
| PK 25 Chris Nendick (5-11, 160, So.) |
| P 45 Jason Baez (5-9, 168, So.) |

One glass ceiling gone, one to go. Last year the Huskies earned their first bowl bid since 1983 when a 9-3 regular season was rewarded with a trip to the Silicon Valley Classic. That was sweet redemption for a team that was denied a bid the previous season despite a 10-2 record. And it was an uplifting experience for a program whose last bowl bid came in a game that no longer exists (California Raisin Bowl) against an opponent that no longer sponsors football (Cal State Fullerton).

But one challenge still remains for a team that has shared three of the last four West Division titles: aiming a berth in its first MAC championship Game.

There are plenty of weapons on both sides of the ball to make that goal a reality as coach Joe Novak welcomes back 15 starters and 37 letter-winners.

On offense, the Huskies' rush-oriented attack returns three All-MAC offensive linemen in junior left tackle Doug Free and seniors Brian Van Acker and Ben Lueck. That group will create holes for perhaps the league's best tandem of returning tailbacks in Garrett Wolfe and A.J. Harris.

Wolfe earned All-MAC honors last season after replacing Harris as the starter early in the season, and the pair combined for 2,478 rushing yards and 22 TDs.

Northern Illinois will need to replace three-year starter Josh Haldi at quarterback, but junior Phil Horvath got some experience early last season. The Huskies also have holes in the receiving corps as tight end Brad Cieslak and Dan Sheldon, both all-league performers, are gone as well. Sam Hurd and Shatone Powers will need to step up to replace them.

Defensively, NIU lost five starters, including a pair of All-MAC players in linebacker Brian Atkinson and defensive back Lionel Hickenbottom.

Seniors Javan Lee, an all-league linebacker who finished with 119 tackles, and Ray Smith, a safety who had 114 stops, will key the defense.

A deep defensive line will also be a plus as ends Quince Holman and Ken West as well as tackle Adam Schroeder have starting experience.



EASTERN MICHIGAN EAGLES



2004 Record: 4-7 overall, 4-4 MAC
Official athletic Web site: www.emich.edu/goeagles

Head coach Jeff Genyk pumped some life in this moribund program last season, pushing the Eagles to a 4-7 record that included a 4-4 mark in MAC play, the team's best finish in five seasons.

But will the offseason turmoil surrounding tailback Anthony Sherrell halt that progress? Or will his return to the program, just a few months after announcing he was transferring to Division I-AA Delaware State, help continue the Eagles' move up the ladder?

Sherrell has the talent to help Eastern Michigan's offense. Two years ago he earned All-MAC honors after running for more than 1,500 yards. But the switch to a spread offense limited him to just 895 yards and sparked his unhappiness.

If Sherrell, who must graduate from school by August to remain eligible, plays for the Eagles, he combines with quarterback Matt Bohnet and receiver Eric Deslauriers to give Eastern Michigan three of the most productive skill players in the league.

Bohnet, a senior transfer from Iowa, finished sixth in the nation in total offense last season and threw for 21 touchdowns. Many of those scoring strikes were caught by Deslauriers, a junior who finished with 84 receptions for 1,257 yards and 13 TDs in earning All-MAC honors.

Three returning starters on the offensive line—senior center Mike Romeli and sophomores Chris Thomas and Khalid Walton—should stabilize things at that position.

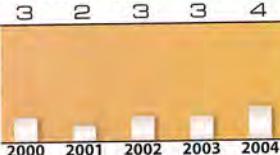
Kicker Andrew Wellock proved to be a weapon on offense, connecting on all but two of his 23 field goal attempts and 32 of 33 extra points on his way to a spot on the All-MAC team.

Defensively, the Eagles will need to take big steps to improve on last season, when only three Division I-A programs gave up more yards than EMU's total of 469.6 yards per game. What's worse, only one school (San Jose State) surrendered more points than Eastern Michigan's average of 41.6 points allowed per contest.

The Eagles' top three tacklers are gone, putting more pressure on top returning tacklers Rontrell Woodruff at strong safety and Steven Bednarik at linebacker.



FIVE-YEAR WINS TREND



2005 SCHEDULE

| DATE | OPPONENT | '04 RESULT |
|-------|---------------------|------------|
| S. 1 | @CINCINNATI | |
| S. 10 | Louisiana-Lafayette | |
| S. 17 | @MICHIGAN | |
| S. 24 | @CENTRAL MICHIGAN | 61-58 (OT) |
| O. 1 | Kent State | 17-69 |
| O. 8 | @TOLEDO | 32-42 |
| O. 15 | @NORTHERN ILLINOIS | 16-34 |
| O. 22 | Miami (OH) | |
| N. 5 | Western Michigan | 35-31 |
| N. 12 | Ball State | 31-24 |
| N. 19 | @BUFFALO | 37-34 |

Head coach: Jeff Genyk,

2nd Year (4-7)

Career Record: 4-7

Stadium: Rynearson Stadium

Turf: Artificial

Capacity: 30,200

PROJECTED STARTERS

| |
|---|
| Starters returning: 13 |
| Lettermen returning/lost: 33/16 |
| OFFENSE |
| QB 11 Matt Bohnet (6-2, 230, Sr.) |
| TB 22 Anthony Sherrell (5-10, 193, Sr.) |
| LT 68 Jake Bleeker (6-4, 303, r-Fr.) |
| LG 63 Khalid Walton (6-3, 314, So.) |
| C 62 Mike Romeli (6-2, 296, Sr.) |
| RG 73 Desi Mayner (6-2, 257, r-Fr.) |
| RT 75 Courtney Ford (6-4, 261, Jr.) |
| TE 16 Ken Bohnet (6-3, 219, So.) |
| WR 19 Eric Deslauriers (6-4, 207, Jr.) |
| WR 2 A.J. Bennett (5-9, 196, Sr.) |
| WR 82 Mark Borders (5-11, 180, So.) |
| DEFENSE |
| DE 90 Olivier Gagnon-Gordillo (6-2, 241, Sr.) |
| DT 93 Greg Egbuogu (6-3, 312, So.) |
| DT 91 Josh Hunt (6-6, 300, So.) |
| DE 88 Kevin Howe (6-2, 236, Jr.) |
| WLB 27 Jereme Perry (6-0, 190, Sr.) |
| MLB 45 Steven Bednarik (6-1, 229, Sr.) |
| SLB 42 Darren Matthews (6-0, 200, So.) |
| CB 26 Victor Alejo (5-11, 164, r-Fr.) |
| CB 33 Steven Lewis (5-8, 170, Sr.) |
| FS 24 Corey Parker (6-0, 180, Sr.) |
| SS 36 Rontrell Woodruff (5-10, 201, Sr.) |
| SPECIALISTS |
| PK 40 Andrew Wellock (5-11, 168, Jr.) |
| P 40 Andrew Wellock (5-11, 168, Jr.) |

PRESEASON RANK:

4**WESTERN MICHIGAN****BRONCOS**

KALAMAZOO, MICH.

2004 Record: 1-10 overall, 0-8 MAC

Official athletic Web site: www.wmubroncos.com

New coach Bill Cubit remembers the good times for the Broncos program.

Cubit was the team's offensive coordinator from 1997-99. During that period WMU went 22-12 overall and 17-7 in the league, claiming the MAC's West Division title in his final season.

The Broncos repeated as West champs the year after Cubit left for Missouri, but began falling the year after. By last season the team had hit rock-bottom, losing its final 10 games after a season-opening win.

Hence Cubit returns as head coach for Western Michigan's 100th season of football.

He'll have some building blocks on offense, starting with his son Ryan at quarterback. Ryan Cubit will have several explosive targets to look for in fellow seniors Greg Jennings and Tony Scheffler.

Jennings caught 74 passes for 1,092 yards and 11 TDs last season to become just the second player in school history to produce back-to-back 1,000-yard receiving seasons. Scheffler was second to Jennings with 53 catches for 570 yards.

Western struggled to run the ball last season, averaging less than 100 rushing yards per game. While four starters return on the line, more production is necessary from a group of running backs that includes seniors Trovon Riley and Daniel Marks as well as sophomore Mark Bonds.

While Bill Cubit may need only to retool the offense, he'll have to start from scratch to rebuild the defense. Only rubble is left from a squad that yielded 480.5 yards of total defense per game, next-to-last among 117 Division I-A schools.

The Broncos were also torched for 39.6 points per game, giving up 30 points or more in nine of their last 10 contests. They surrendered more than 50 points four times.

Six starters return on defense, but the team's top three tacklers from a year ago were lost to graduation and WMU will switch to a 4-3 alignment to better defend against the run.

Head coach:
Bill Cubit,
1st Year (0-0)
Career Record: 0-0

Stadium:
Waldo Stadium
Turf: Artificial
Capacity: 30,200

| DATE OPPONENT |
|--------------------------|
| S. 3 @VIRGINIA |
| S. 10 @TOLEDO |
| S. 17 Southern Illinois |
| O. 1 Buffalo |
| O. 8 Ball State |
| O. 22 @BOWLING GREEN |
| O. 29 Kent State |
| N. 5 @EASTERN MICHIGAN |
| N. 12 Central Michigan |
| N. 22 @NORTHERN ILLINOIS |

PRESEASON RANK:

5**CENTRAL MICHIGAN****CHIPPETTAWAS**

MT. PLEASANT, MICH.

2004 Record: 4-7 overall, 3-5 MAC

Official athletic Web site: www.cmuchippewas.com

As Brian Kelly enters his second season as coach of the Chippewas, he already has a building block on campus in junior tailback Jerry Seymour.

Last season the 5-6 tailback ran for 1,284 yards, 12th best nationally, and also led CMU with 47 receptions. His 413 receiving yards lifted Seymour to 1,802 all-purpose yards, ninth best in Division I-A football.

And yet Kelly can't count on Seymour to be on the field when Central Michigan opens the season with a home game against Indiana Sept. 2.

In April, Seymour pleaded no contest to lying to a grand jury regarding his actions around a local bar the previous June. The jury was investigating a man's beating death and already had sentenced two of Seymour's former teammates to 30 days in jail.

So what happens to the Chippewas if the junior isn't in the backfield? The CMU offense is likely to struggle.

Senior quarterback Kent Smith is becoming more adept at running a spread offense, and he will operate behind a line that returns three starters. But the two linemen lost were two anchors in All-MAC pick Adam Kieft and center Eric Ghiaciuc.

Wide receivers Justin Harper and Damien Linson are also back after combining for 76 catches and 12 touchdowns, but quality depth here is a question mark.

And the running game? Without Seymour, the burden would fall to Spencer Lewis, who had just 175 yards in nine games and simply isn't in Seymour's class.

On defense, six starters are back from a squad that struggled to stop the pass, allowing 261.2 passing yards per game to rank 107th in the country. As a result the Chippewas struggled to stop teams from scoring, especially in five road games in which CMU was outscored 170-55.

All-MAC pick Dan Bazuin returns at defensive end.

Head coach:
Brian Kelly,
2nd Year (4-7)
Career Record: 122-42-2

Stadium:
Kelly/Shorts Stadium
Turf: Artificial
Capacity: 30,199

| DATE OPPONENT |
|-------------------------|
| S. 2 Indiana |
| S. 10 @MIAMI (OH) |
| S. 17 @PENN STATE |
| S. 24 Eastern Michigan |
| O. 1 @AKRON |
| O. 8 @ARMY |
| O. 15 Ohio |
| O. 29 Toledo |
| N. 5 Northern Illinois |
| N. 12 @WESTERN MICHIGAN |
| N. 19 @BALL STATE |

PRESEASON RANK:

6**BALL STATE****CARDINALS**

MUNCIE, IND.

2004 Record: 2-9 overall, 2-6 MAC

Official athletic Web site: www.ballstatesports.com

You'll have to pardon Brady Hoke if he has a few frustrations as he begins his third season as coach of his alma mater. Like the little Dutch boy at the dike, Hoke seems to plug one hole in his program just as another one opens.

Last season he found a gem in wide receiver Dante Ridgeway, a junior who was a finalist for the Biletnikoff Award after catching 105 passes for 1,399 yards and eight touchdowns. Ridgeway left the program a year early to enter the NFL Draft.

Last season Hoke developed true-freshman tailback Adell Givens into an All-MAC performer who finished with 963 rushing yards and six touchdowns in 10 games. Givens was bounced from the program last winter.

Last season Hoke took his lumps with a young defense that expected to return all but two starters this year. The two lost starters were All-MAC safety Justin Beriault and defensive tackle Conrad Slaughter, one of the team's leaders in tackles for loss. This year three of those nine returning starters already have been moved to backup roles on the depth chart.

Hoke probably should expect the Cardinals to receive some good breaks this season to balance the scales.

On offense, Joey Lynch doesn't make many turnovers and should steady a passing game that will look for players to step up and replace Ridgeway. Charles Wynn has already stepped forward to replace Givens, while Larry Bostic returns after sitting out last season with an injury.

The offensive line also has a veteran flavor, with three returnees led by fifth-year senior Bryan Smith and four upperclassmen expected to see significant action.

The reason for the shuffling on defense is the 52 touchdowns allowed last year, a total more than double the number scored by the Ball State offense. Strong safety Erik Keys, the team's top returning tackler with 84 stops, will lead the secondary.

Head coach:
Brady Hoke,
3rd Year (6-17)
Career Record: 6-17

Stadium:
Ball State Stadium
Turf: Grass
Capacity: 22,500

| DATE OPPONENT |
|--------------------------|
| S. 3 @IOWA |
| S. 10 Bowling Green |
| S. 17 @AUBURN |
| O. 1 @BOSTON COLLEGE |
| O. 8 @WESTERN MICHIGAN |
| O. 15 Toledo |
| O. 22 @OHIO |
| O. 29 @NORTHERN ILLINOIS |
| N. 5 Akron |
| N. 12 @EASTERN MICHIGAN |
| N. 19 Central Michigan |

SUN BELT CONFERENCE PREDICTED ORDER OF FINISH:

| | | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|--|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| UNI p. 134 | ULM p. 135 | TROY p. 135 | Louisiana Ragin' Cajuns p. 136 |
| 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| FAMU p. 136 | MIDDLE TENN. p. 137 | ASU Indians p. 137 | FLU p. 137 |

Games to watch:

>> **Troy at North Texas**, Oct. 1

A week after playing at South Carolina, the Trojans face the three-time league champ on the road.

>> **Louisiana-Lafayette at Middle Tennessee**, Oct. 22

The Ragin' Cajuns, if they are to challenge for the crown, will need this win.

>> **Louisiana-Monroe at North Texas**, Oct. 29

If the Indians are to be considered seriously, they must beat the best and win on the road.

official conference website:
www.sunbeltsports.org

league has some regrouping to do with three teams and 18 of its best players gone

Tommy Hicks
Daily Register

The game of musical chairs that has become prevalent in the Sun Belt Conference is being played again. This time, New Mexico State, Idaho and Utah State are out of the mix, with Florida Atlantic and Florida International taking their seats at the Sun Belt football table.

Some things remain the same: The league still is several member teams ranked in the bottom tier Division I-A; it still has had just one team (North Texas) represent it in the New Orleans Bowl; and it's still in need of some big out-of-conference wins.

There is some momentum building. Two Sun Belt teams earned bowl invitations last year, with North Texas heading to New Orleans and Troy, in its first season as a I-A conference member, playing in the Silicon Valley Classic. Troy also provided some splash by opening last season with wins at Marshall and at home on national TV against Missouri, which was ranked at the time. But the Trojans failed to continue that run and also failed to share or win the league crown outright.

Troy defensive end Demarcus Ware was the No. 11 pick overall in April's NFL Draft, which provided some extra publicity for the league and the school, and other Sun Belt players have a chance to gain some national recognition this season. The addition of Florida Atlantic and Florida International, directed by well-known coaches Howard Schnellenberger and Don Strock, respectively, should generate some storylines for the conference—but only if those teams manage to collect some victories in the next couple of seasons.

The rushing tandem of Patrick Cobbs and Jamarlo Thomas should continue to bolster North Texas' emergence and keep the Mean Green on the receiving end of national attention. Cobbs was the league's top rusher in 2003 and when injuries sidelined him last year, Thomas took over his spot and emerged the top rusher in the nation with a 180.1 yards-per-game average.

The league has much work to do, however, especially considering that 18 of the 26 first-team All-Sun Belt selections last year were seniors. And of the eight remaining spots on the all-league team, three played for schools no longer in the league. So there's some rebuilding to do in the Belt.

Rating the players

| | |
|-----------------------|--|
| Fastest receiver | Drauzon Quillen , UL Monroe |
| Best hands | Bill Sampy , WR, UL Lafayette |
| Best passing QB | Steven Jyles , UL Monroe |
| Best running QB | Jerry Babb , UL Lafayette |
| Most elusive RB | Jamarlo Thomas , North Texas |
| Best instincts | Chez Williams , CB, UL Monroe |
| Best athlete | JaMel Branch , WR, North Texas |
| Best under pressure | Steven Jyles , QB, UL Monroe |
| Best NFL prospect | Patrick Cobbs , RB, North Texas |
| Top impact freshmen | Kenny Mainer , DE, Troy |
| Hardest hitter | Bernard Davis , LB, Troy |
| Biggest underachiever | Kevin Payne , RB/S, UL Monroe |

Rating the coaches

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| Best strategist | Larry Blakeney , Troy |
| Best recruiter | Darrell Dickey , North Texas |
| Coach on the spot | Andy McCallum , Middle Tennessee |

Don't be surprised if ...

North Texas doesn't represent the Sun Belt in the New Orleans Bowl this year. While the Mean Green is favored to win the league title [again], there will be some competition for that top spot, perhaps as many as four teams in contention in the final weeks.

One man's opinion

"With Florida Atlantic and FIU joining the football mix this season—armed by the state's deep recruiting pool—and Troy's entrance last year, the rest of the league better increase its performance on the field and in recruiting or risk falling behind."

—a Sun Belt coach

Street & Smith's ALL-CONFERENCE

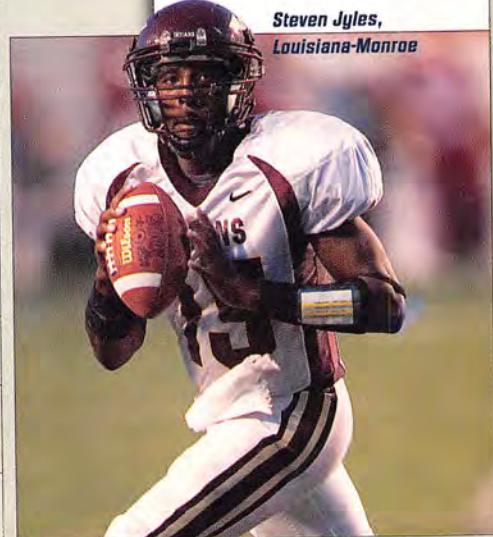
Offense

| | |
|----|--|
| QB | Steven Jyles , Sr., UL Monroe |
| RB | Patrick Cobbs , Sr., North Texas |
| RB | Jamarlo Thomas , So., N. Texas |
| DL | Dylan Lineberry , Jr., North Texas |
| DL | Bernagle Franklin , Jr., Middle Tenn. |
| DL | Brandon Cox , Jr., UL Lafayette |
| DL | Willie Hall , Jr., Middle Tennessee |
| DL | Justin Ernest , Sr., UL Lafayette |
| WR | Bill Sampy , Sr., UL Lafayette |
| WR | Johnny Quinn , Jr., North Texas |
| TE | Stephen Chicola , So., Middle Tenn. |
| PK | Nick Bazaldua , Jr., North Texas |
| KR | Antonio Warren , Sr., Arkansas St. |

Defense

| | |
|----|---|
| DL | Brandon Gullory , Sr., UL Monroe |
| DL | Jeff Littlejohn , Sr., Middle Tenn. |
| DL | Tony Hills , Jr., UL Lafayette |
| LB | Bernard Davis , Sr., Troy |
| LB | Lance Preston , Sr., FIU |
| LB | Leverne Johnson , Sr., Troy |
| LB | Marcel Horne , Jr., Middle Tenn. |
| DB | Johnny Faulk , Sr., Troy |
| DB | Tyrell Johnson , So., Arkansas St. |
| DB | Willie Hughley , Sr., Florida Atlantic |
| DB | Sherrad Martin , So., Troy |
| P | Joel Stelly , Sr., UL Monroe |

Steven Jyles,
Louisiana-Monroe





JAMARIO THOMAS, RB



NORTH TEXAS

MEAN GREEN

DENTON, TEXAS

2004 Record: 7-5 overall, 7-0 Sun Belt (lost to Southern Miss in the New Orleans Bowl, 31-10)

Stadium: Fouts Field

Turf: Artificial

Capacity: 30,500

Official athletic Web site: www.meangreensports.com

PRESEASON RANK:

FIVE-YEAR WINS TREND

1

3 5 8 9 7
2000 2001 2002 2003 2004

Head coach: Darrell Dickey, 8th Year (37-46) Career Record: 37-46

Assistant coaches: Ramon Flanigan (off. coord./QBs), Duke Atterberry (TEs), Bruce Bell (RBs/special teams), Harold Etheridge (off. line), Rick Gailey (WRs), Kenny Evans (def. coord./LBs), Mike Bugar (def. tackles), Van Malone (def. backs), Eric Russell (def. ends/special teams)



2005 SCHEDULE

| DATE | OPPONENT | '04 RESULT |
|-------|------------------------|------------|
| S. 3 | @LSU | |
| S. 10 | @MIDDLE TENNESSEE | 30-21 |
| S. 17 | Tulsa | |
| S. 24 | @KANSAS STATE | |
| O. 1 | Troy | |
| O. 8 | Arkansas State | 31-7 |
| O. 15 | @FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL | |
| O. 22 | @LOUISIANA TECH | |
| O. 29 | Louisiana-Monroe | 45-30 |
| N. 5 | Louisiana-Lafayette | 27-17 |
| N. 12 | @FLORIDA ATLANTIC | 13-20 |

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 10
Lettermen returning/lost: 33/20

OFFENSE

| | | |
|----|----|-----------------------------------|
| QB | 5 | Joey Byerly (6-4, 254, r-Fr.) |
| FB | 37 | James Mitchell (5-9, 192, So.) |
| RB | 20 | Jamario Thomas (5-11, 195, r-Fr.) |
| LT | 72 | Joel Foster (6-4, 268, So.) |
| LG | 64 | Jason May (6-4, 295, Jr.) |
| C | 67 | Chad Rose (6-3, 285, r-Fr.) |
| RG | 66 | Dylan Lineberry (6-3, 310, Jr.) |
| RT | 60 | Jeremy Brown (6-5, 299, r-Fr.) |
| TE | 99 | Robert Harmon (6-4, 265, So.) |
| WR | 81 | Johnny Quinn (6-0, 199, So.) |
| WR | 3 | Zach Muzzy (5-10, 175, So.) |

DEFENSE

| | | |
|-----|----|------------------------------------|
| DE | 90 | Jeremiah Chapman (6-4, 245, r-Fr.) |
| NT | 52 | Chris Miller (6-1, 270, Jr.) |
| DT | 56 | Sky Pruitt (6-2, 295, So.) |
| DE | 98 | Eli Hutchinson (6-4, 240, Jr.) |
| ILB | 51 | Derek Mendoza (6-1, 248, r-Fr.) |
| OLB | 4 | Brandon Monroe (6-2, 220, r-Fr.) |
| OLB | 46 | Shawn Early (6-0, 215, Jr.) |
| CB | 8 | T.J. Covington (6-2, 190, Jr.) |
| CB | 34 | Ja'Mel Branch (5-7, 171, Sr.) |
| FS | 24 | Roderick Cotton (5-10, 202, So.) |
| SS | 45 | Cliff Higgs (6-1, 222, r-Fr.) |

SPECIALISTS

| | | |
|----|----|--------------------------------|
| PK | 29 | Nick Bazaldua (5-10, 171, Jr.) |
| P | 29 | Nick Bazaldua (5-10, 171, Jr.) |

If Thomas and Cobbs can coexist in the same backfield, Mean Green could have nation's most potent rushing tandem

Four years ago, the Mean Green won the Sun Belt's first automatic berth to the New Orleans Bowl with a losing record, having tied Middle Tennessee for the conference championship but winning the head-to-head meeting with the Blue Raiders. Many believed at the time Middle Tennessee was the program with the best future in the league.

Three more New Orleans Bowl berths later, North Texas has proven to be the annual team to beat in the Sun Belt. It holds that distinction again this year, but for two reasons: running backs Patrick Cobbs and Jamario Thomas.

In order for the Mean Green to keep its championship streak alive, it must find a quarterback to replace the graduated Scott Hall, find a way to keep Cobbs and Thomas happy as a tandem, develop an offensive line that will allow the backs to do their jobs and vastly improve a defense that was suspect a year ago, especially in the secondary.

Coach Darrell Dickey has faced question marks before in recent seasons and found the right answers. Thomas is perhaps his biggest magic trick. Cobbs



PATRICK COBBS, RB

was injured in the second game last season after gaining 56 yards. Instead of throwing the North Texas offense in a tailspin, Dickey threw freshman Thomas into the fray. The result was a 1,872-yard, 17-touchdown performance in 10 games, good enough to lead the nation in rushing yards per game (180.1). Thomas and Cobbs are now healthy and together in the same backfield, so Dickey will try to keep them happy and productive.

Joey Byerly appears the choice to replace Hall at quarterback and the offensive line will look to Dylan Lineberry and Joel Foster to lead the way up front. Johnny Quinn, who has led the Mean

Green in receiving the past two seasons, also returns, which adds to the scoring potential.

On defense, linebacker Brandon Monroe returns and former wide receiver Ja'Mel Branch, a talented athlete, has made the move to the secondary and will likely be in the starting lineup for the season opener. Junior-college transfer cornerback T.J. Covington will also help in the secondary, as could a pair of incoming freshmen—Korey Washington and Arthur Stubblefield.

North Texas opens the season at LSU, then travels to Middle Tennessee the following week. Other non-conference foes are Tulsa, Kansas State and Louisiana Tech.

NROE, LA.

Louisiana-Monroe

INDIANS

Record: 5-6 overall, 4-3 Sun Belt
 Official athletic Web site: www.ulmathletics.com

The Indians' claim to such a lofty position in the Sun Belt standings is determined by one factor, but a factor that gives them a rare edge over the remainder of the league: experience. Monroe will return 19 starters from last year's team that, 5-6 overall and 4-3 in the league, isn't outstanding.

Yet 19 returning starters in a league that saw many talented players graduate gives the Indians a leg up, especially considering many of the starters who are returning—namely quarterback Steven Jyles, wide receiver Drouzon Quillen, defensive end Brandon Guillory and defensive back Chaz Williams—play key positions.

Jyles is the career leader in every Sun Belt passing category but one, and is also adept as a runner, picking up 587 yards and eight touchdowns last season on the ground. Mason Denham will be the running back, with Quillen joined by Larry Davenport and Joe Merritt at receiver. Tight end Joey Trappey is one of the best in the league, while an inexperienced offensive line led by Adam Hill must come around quickly if the Indians are to make a serious move.

The defense received a big bonus when Guillory earned a fourth season of eligibility. He produced 18 tackles for a loss last year and had 5.5 sacks. Williams' experience will be helpful in the secondary and, while there aren't a lot of familiar names in Monroe's defensive lineup, the unit finished third in total defense and fourth in scoring defense in the league last year. But there are several spots on defense that must be improved.

The Indians may get a kick out of this season based on their kicking game: punter Joel Stelly returns with his 45.1-yard punting average, which was sixth best in the nation, while solid Cole Wilson returns as the placekicker.

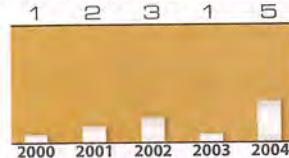
The schedule is a factor, too. Monroe travels to Mountain West contender Wyoming for its second game, then gets a taste of the SEC with Georgia and Arkansas on the road in its third and sixth weeks. It plays Troy and Louisiana-Lafayette at home, but must travel to North Texas and Middle Tennessee.



2 PRESEASON RANK



FIVE-YEAR WINS TREND



2005 SCHEDULE

| DATE | OPPONENT | '04 RESULT |
|-------|-----------------------|------------|
| S. 1 | Northwestern State | |
| S. 10 | @WYOMING | 10-31 |
| S. 17 | @GEORGIA | |
| S. 24 | @FLORIDA ATLANTIC | 17-13 |
| O. 1 | Arkansas State | 21-28 |
| O. 8 | @ARKANSAS | 20-49 |
| O. 15 | Troy | |
| O. 29 | @NORTH TEXAS | 30-45 |
| N. 5 | Florida International | 28-20 |
| N. 12 | @MIDDLE TENNESSEE | 24-37 |
| N. 19 | Louisiana-Lafayette | 13-10 |

Head coach: Charlie Weatherbie,
 3rd Year (6-17)

Career Record: 51-81

Stadium: Malone Stadium

Turf: Grass

Capacity: 30,427

PROJECTED STARTERS

| |
|---|
| Starters returning: 19 |
| Lettermen returning/lost: 44/19 |
| OFFENSE |
| QB 15 Steven Jyles (6-1, 191, Sr.) |
| RB 14 Kevin Payne (6-1, 212, Jr.) |
| RB 33 Mason Denham (5-9, 192, Sr.) |
| LT 72 Nicolas Silva (6-3, 310, Jr.) |
| LG 79 Adam Hill (6-1, 299, So.) |
| C 66 Dorian Beckwith (6-0, 315, Sr.) |
| RG 55 Patrick Avinger (6-2, 264, So.) |
| RT 75 Kyle Cunningham (6-4, 260, r-Fr.) |
| TE 1 Joey Trappey (6-1, 224, Sr.) |
| WR 18 Drouzon Quillen (6-6, 215, Jr.) |
| WR 9 Joe Merritt (6-0, 188, Jr.) |
| DEFENSE |
| DE 42 Brandon Guillory (6-4, 240, Sr.) |
| NT 93 Dilando Johnson (6-3, 288, Sr.) |
| DT 53 Ricky Williams (6-2, 267, So.) |
| DE 99 Alnecco Shine (6-2, 256, Sr.) |
| LB 32 Jason Schule (6-0, 213, Sr.) |
| LB 46 James Williams (6-0, 218, So.) |
| LB 44 Harry Bradley (6-1, 209, Jr.) |
| CB 24 Chazman Williams (6-0, 180, So.) |
| CB 19 Darius Battles (5-11, 180, So.) |
| CB 6 Quintez Secka (5-11, 185, Jr.) |
| S 23 Shelton Williams (6-3, 202, Sr.) |
| SPECIALISTS |
| PK 87 Cole Wilson (5-11, 183, So.) |
| P 13 Joel Stelly (5-11, 187, Sr.) |

| |
|--|
| PROJECTED STARTERS |
| Starters returning: 7 |
| Lettermen returning/lost: 37/23 |
| OFFENSE |
| QB 15 Carl Meadows (6-2, 187, Jr.) |
| RB 21 Joel Whinghter (6-0, 207, Sr.) |
| FB 33 Sean Dawkins (5-10, 225, Jr.) |
| LT 79 Rob Austin (6-5, 256, Jr.) |
| LG 76 Zarah Yisrael (6-3, 324, Sr.) |
| C 72 James Gardner (6-3, 311, Jr.) |
| RG 71 Kirby Bodiford (6-4, 285, Jr.) |
| RT 73 James Edwards (6-5, 304, Sr.) |
| TE 89 Josh Pruitt (6-3, 235, Jr.) |
| SE 17 Gary Banks (6-1, 200, So.) |
| FL 81 James Earl Cray (5-10, 174, Jr.) |
| DEFENSE |
| LE 54 Larry Brown (6-3, 233, Sr.) |
| NT 74 Franklin Lloyd (6-0, 304, Sr.) |
| DT 91 Torre Lankford (6-1, 273, Sr.) |
| RE 51 Kenny Mainor (6-4, 220, r-Fr.) |
| WL 27 Bernard Davis (6-0, 221, Sr.) |
| MLB 30 Leverne Johnson (6-0, 235, Sr.) |
| SLB 26 Marcus Richardson (6-1, 200, So.) |
| LCB 3 Adrian Ghent (5-10, 176, Sr.) |
| RCB 8 Johnny Faulk (5-10, 169, Sr.) |
| FS 13 Sherrod Martin (6-1, 178, So.) |
| SS 28 Brannon Condren (6-1, 204, Jr.) |
| SPECIALISTS |
| PK 40 Greg Whibbs (5-10, 165, So.) |
| P 20 Thomas Olmsted (6-4, 206, Sr.) |

TROY, ALA.

3 PRESEASON RANK

TROY

TROJANS



2004 Record: 7-5 overall, 5-2 Sun Belt
(lost to Northern Illinois in the Silicon Valley Classic, 34-21)
Official athletic Web site: www.troytrojans.com

Just when it appeared the Trojans would make a grand entrance into the Sun Belt last season, they faded into the background by losing four games in a six-game stretch after picking up impressive wins against Marshall (on the road) and Missouri to start the season.

They lost their first league game at New Mexico State and also lost to LSU and South Carolina, though playing both SEC teams close. After inserting then-freshman D.T. McDowell at starting quarterback in the seventh game, Troy put together another streak, winning its final four regular-season games before losing to Northern Illinois in the Silicon Valley Bowl.

There was a vast divide between Troy's two units—the defense ranked No. 8 in the country in rushing defense, No. 10 in scoring defense and No. 16 in total defense, while the offense was No. 115 (out of 117 teams) in total offense.

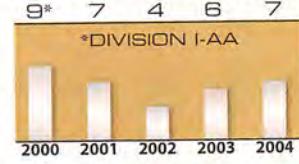
Heading into this season there are quite a few holes for the Trojans to fill on both sides of the ball. Included among the missing are 1,000-yard rusher DeWhitt Betterson and first-round NFL draft pick Demarcus Ware, last season's Sun Belt Defensive Player of the Year. And the Trojans also lost Ware's coach, as defensive coordinator Les Koenning was hired away by Clemson.

McDowell's eligibility for the season is in question heading into the fall, so Carl Meadows could be the starting quarterback. He may be anyway, having won the No. 1 spot in the spring. Just in case, coach Larry Blakeney signed a juco quarterback late in the signing period. Joel Whinghter could take Betterson's place at tailback, but he's built for durability and tough yards, not speed. At wide receiver, James Earl Cray and Eugene Hampton lead the way with help from former QB Gary Banks. Up front, Rob Austin, who played tight end last season, has been moved to left tackle. James Gardner, Kirby Bodiford, James Edwards and Zarah Yisrael must emerge alongside him.

On defense, Ware's heir apparent is freshman Kenny Mainor, whose big frame (6-4, 220), great speed and quickness draw comparisons with his predecessor at defensive end.

South Carolina, UAB and Missouri are part of a tough non-conference schedule for the Trojans. North Texas is Troy's first Sun Belt opponent.

FIVE-YEAR WINS TRENDS



2005 SCHEDULE

| DATE | OPPONENT | '04 RESULT |
|-------|-----------------------|------------|
| S. 3 | Cal Poly | |
| S. 10 | UAB | |
| S. 17 | @MISSOURI | 24-14 |
| S. 24 | @SOUTH CAROLINA | 7-17 |
| O. 1 | @NORTH TEXAS | |
| O. 8 | Florida International | |
| O. 15 | @LOUISIANA-MONROE | |
| O. 29 | @LOUISIANA-LAFAYETTE | 13-10 |
| N. 5 | Florida Atlantic | 24-6 |
| N. 12 | @ARKANSAS STATE | 9-13 |
| N. 19 | Middle Tennessee | 37-17 |

Head coach: Larry Blakeney,
 15th Year (112-52-1)

Career Record: 112-52-1

Stadium: Movie Gallery Stadium

Turf: Artificial

Capacity: 30,000



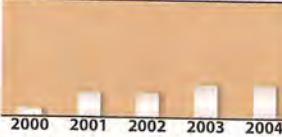
LA.-LAFAYETTE

RAGIN' CAJUNS

2004 Record: 4-7 overall, 2-5 Sun Belt
Official athletic Web site: www.ragincajuns.com

FIVE-YEAR WINS TREND

1 3 3 4 4



2005 SCHEDULE

| DATE | OPPONENT | '04 RESULT |
|-------|-----------------------|------------|
| S. 3 | @TEXAS | |
| S. 10 | @EASTERN MICHIGAN | |
| S. 17 | Northwestern State | 14-7 |
| O. 1 | UCF | |
| O. 8 | Florida Atlantic | |
| O. 15 | @ARKANSAS STATE | 27-24 |
| O. 22 | @MIDDLE TENNESSEE | 24-17 |
| O. 29 | Troy | 10-13 |
| N. 5 | @NORTH TEXAS | 17-27 |
| N. 12 | Florida International | 43-34 |
| N. 19 | @LOUISIANA-MONROE | 10-13 |

Head coach: Rickey Bustle,
4th Year (11-24)

Career Record: 11-24

Stadium: Cajun Field

Turf: Grass

Capacity: 31,000

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 17
Lettermen returning/lost: 42/17

OFFENSE

| | |
|-----------|-------------------------------------|
| QB | 15 Jerry Babb (6-3, 215, Jr.) |
| FB | 24 Dwight Lindon (5-9, 210, Sr.) |
| RB | 25 Chester Johnson (5-10, 198, Sr.) |
| LT | 72 Brandon Cox (6-7, 295, Jr.) |
| LG | 56 Will Chance (6-3, 295, So.) |
| C | 62 Greg Hodges (6-2, 290, Sr.) |
| RG | 75 Justin Ernest (6-4, 280, Sr.) |
| RT | 67 Jesse Newman (6-4, 312, So.) |
| TE | 88 Erik Jones (6-4, 235, r-Fr.) |
| WR | 80 Bill Sampy (6-1, 175, Sr.) |
| WR | 84 Jordan Jackson (6-6, 200, So.) |

DEFENSE

| | |
|-----------|--|
| DE | 40 Eugene Kwarteng (6-4, 240, Sr.) |
| DT | 65 Marshall Delesdernier (6-1, 275, Jr.) |
| DT | 97 Travis Ferguson (6-2, 295, So.) |
| DE | 91 Anthony Hills (6-4, 240, Jr.) |
| LB | 4 Mark Risher (6-2, 215, So.) |

| | |
|------------|------------------------------------|
| LB | 52 Tré Green (6-0, 215, Jr.) |
| LB | 31 Tyler Norman (6-2, 220, Sr.) |
| LCB | 27 Jemarcus Smith (5-10, 175, So.) |
| RCB | 2 Michael Adams (5-8, 170, Jr.) |
| FS | 30 Julian Harris (6-1, 195, Sr.) |

| | |
|--------------------|----------------------------------|
| SS | 8 Lamar Morgan (6-2, 200, So.) |
| SPECIALISTS | |
| PK | 37 Sean Comiskey (5-9, 168, Sr.) |

| | |
|----------|-------------------------------|
| P | 17 Brit Frael (6-1, 185, Jr.) |
|----------|-------------------------------|

Entering his fourth season in Lafayette after several seasons as a top assistant at Virginia Tech, there's pressure on coach Rickey Bustle to post a winning season. The Ragin' Cajuns have come close, but have simply not had solid lineups across the board. Such could be the case again this year. Quarterback Jerry Babb, who produced 2,843 yards of total offense last season, gives the offensive backfield stability. He's expected to receive help from redshirt-freshman signal-caller Michael Desormeaux.

Bill Sampy, who had 57 catches for 776 yards and six TDs last season, leads a thin receiving corps. Only three other receivers had a catch last year. There is plenty of depth at running back, where the Ragin' Cajuns had great improvement last year. Chester Johnson leads the way, with Caleb Rubin, Abdule Levier and Josh Harrison all in the mix, too. Fullback Dwight Lindon should also help.

The offensive line, which has four returning starters but not much depth, is anchored by Brandon Cox and Justin Ernest.

Defensively, the biggest concern remains up front, where Cajuns had trouble getting to the quarterback a year ago. While the pass defense ranked No. 11 in the country and tops in the conference, the pass defense was eighth out of nine teams in the league.

Tre' Green, Mark Risher and Tyler Norman all return to starting positions at linebacker, making that group the strength of the unit.

Sean Comiskey returns at placekicker and could claim several school records. The special-teams unit is a plus for Lafayette, as the Cajuns have blocked 16 kicks in the past three years.



FLORIDA ATLANTIC

OWLS



2004 Record: 9-3
Official athletic Web site: www.fausports.com

FIVE-YEAR WINS TREND

DNP 4* 2* 11* 9

*DIVISION I-AA



2005 SCHEDULE

| DATE | OPPONENT | '04 RESULT |
|-------|-----------------------|------------|
| S. 3 | @KANSAS | |
| S. 10 | Oklahoma State | |
| S. 17 | @MINNESOTA | |
| S. 24 | Louisiana-Monroe | 13-17 |
| O. 1 | @LOUISVILLE | |
| O. 8 | @LOUISIANA-LAFAYETTE | |
| O. 15 | Middle Tennessee | 27-20 |
| O. 22 | @ARKANSAS STATE | |
| N. 5 | @TROY | 6-24 |
| N. 12 | North Texas | 20-13 |
| N. 19 | Florida International | 17-10 |

Head coach: Howard Schnellenberger,
5th Year (26-21)

Career Record: 126-98-3

Stadium: Lockhart Stadium

Turf: Grass

Capacity: 20,500

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 8
Lettermen returning/lost: 30/29

OFFENSE

| | |
|-----------|------------------------------------|
| QB | 5 Danny Embick (6-1, 210, Sr.) |
| FB | 35 Aaron Sanchez (5-10, 195, Sr.) |
| RB | 8 B.J. Manley (5-9, 180, So.) |
| LT | 78 Jarrid Smith (6-2, 258, So.) |
| LG | 65 Brandon Jackson (6-3, 245, So.) |
| C | 70 Nello Faulk (6-6, 264, Jr.) |
| RG | 73 Stetson Wilson (6-6, 310, Jr.) |
| RT | 63 Antes Perkins (6-4, 285, So.) |
| TE | 81 Dantson Dareus (6-5, 238, Sr.) |
| WR | 89 Tito Pollice (6-3, 185, Jr.) |
| WR | 88 Thomas Parker (6-2, 199, Sr.) |

DEFENSE

| | |
|------------|---------------------------------------|
| LE | 97 Josh Pinnick (6-5, 222, So.) |
| LT | 57 Jason Pugh (6-2, 259, Sr.) |
| RT | 98 Jason Flemming (6-2, 292, So.) |
| RE | 91 Josh Jenkins (6-3, 210, Jr.) |
| WLB | 45 Cirgile Sincere (6-0, 213, So.) |
| MLB | 59 Shomari Earls (6-4, 250, Sr.) |
| SLB | 42 Kinyumba Mutakabir (6-2, 202, Sr.) |
| CB | 22 Lawrence Gordon (5-10, 175, Sr.) |
| CB | 24 Willie Hughley (6-0, 170, Sr.) |
| FS | 9 Taheem Acevedo (6-1, 195, Jr.) |
| SS | 34 Christian Amaya (5-11, 190, Sr.) |

SPECIALISTS

| | |
|-----------|----------------------------------|
| PK | 33 Daniel Kenard (6-4, 185, So.) |
| P | 28 Mike Brown (6-2, 212, Sr.) |

Perhaps the most under-the-radar season produced last year was the one by the Owls. Coach Howard Schnellenberger led the Owls to a 9-3 finish that included wins over Hawaii Sun Belt champ North Texas, Middle Tennessee, Florida A&M and Illinois State. In fact, the Owls won their first five games of the season.

That should be a great momentum builder heading into this year, FAU's first in the Sun Belt. The problem is that only eight starters—four each on offense and defense—are returning from last year's team. The other trouble spot is with the schedule. The Owls will open at Kansas, followed by games against Oklahoma State and Minnesota and later a game at Schnellenberger's former coaching home, Louisville. The good news is that FAU has league hom games against UL Monroe, Middle Tennessee, Troy and North Texas.

Schnellenberger has done a good job of collecting talent for the Owls, but now the process is at a new starting point, having to replace so many starters and jumping into conference competition for the first time in the same year. There is optimism, though. The offensive backfield is gone. West Virginia transfer Danny Embick is expected to take over at quarterback, and he has the skills needed to run Schnellenberger's offense. B.J. Manley, with only 13 carries a year ago, is expected to start at tailback, with Aaron Sanchez at fullback. Receiver was also hit hard by graduation, leaving Thomas Parker as the top returnee there. He had 14 catches for 206 yards and a touchdown. The offensive line looks to feature three sophomores and two juniors, with guard Stetson Wilson being the biggest of the group at 6-foot-6, 310 pounds.

Led by Willie Hughley, who has led the team in interceptions the past two years, the secondary will be the strength of the defense. At linebacker, the leader of the defense can be found in Shomari Earls. The 6-4, 250-pounder was the team's leading tackler last season with 81 stops, including four sacks and 10.5 tackles for a loss. Up front, the Owls will look to end Josh Pinnick to set the tone.

Mike Brown returns at punter, with Daniel Kenard expected to grab the placekicking duties.

The Owls must improve if they are to cut down on their penalties. Last season they were flagged 113 times for more than 1,000 yards.

MIDDLE TENNESSEE**BLUE RAIDERS**

MURFREESBORO, TENN.



2004 Record: 5-6 overall, 4-4 Sun Belt

Official athletic Web site: www.goblueraiders.com

This could be the season the Blue Raiders get back in the Sun Belt race after finishing 4-4 and in fifth place last season. That's because they have 18 starters returning, many of them having played key roles last season.

It starts on offense, where eight starters are back, including quarterback Clint Marks, who led the league in passing yards (2,749) and completion percentage (70.4). The left-hander grabbed control of a race for the starting nod after a battle with Josh Harris, who also returns, so the position has depth.

The big problem for the Raiders last season was that the two quarterbacks combined for more rushing yards than the top running back. Three of the top four running backs return—Eugene Gross, Terry Jackson and Demarco McNair.

At wide receiver, the loss of Kerry Wright will be quite noticeable. Hoping to fill the void left by the school's all-time TD-reception leader are Chris Henry, Cleannord Saintil and Pierre Ingram. Henry caught 60 passes for 586 yards but no touchdowns last season.

Three starters return to the offensive line—Germayle Franklin, Willie Hall and Marcus Gates—and they must improve their play in an effort to give the running backs and quarterback some room and time to operate.

The defense is where Middle Tennessee should show some improvement, thanks to the return of 10 starters from a year ago. The unit will, however, be playing for its third different coordinator in four seasons, Mark Criner.

Former coordinator Bradley Dale Peveto joined Les Miles' LSU staff. Criner will direct an experienced and talented line, led by Jeff Littlejohn, that features six players who started at least one game last year.

| DATE OPPONENT |
|------------------------------|
| S. 3 @ALABAMA |
| S. 10 North Texas |
| S. 17 Akron |
| S. 24 @TEMPLE |
| O. 1 @VANDERBILT |
| O. 15 @FLORIDA ATLANTIC |
| O. 22 Louisiana-Lafayette |
| O. 29 @FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL |
| N. 5 Arkansas State |
| N. 12 Louisiana-Monroe |
| N. 19 @TROY |

Head coach:
Andy McCollum,
7th (30-38)
Career Record: 30-38

Stadium: Johnny "Red"
Floyd Stadium
Turf: Artificial
Capacity: 30,788

ARKANSAS STATE**INDIANS**

JONESBORO, ARK.



2004 Record: 3-8 overall, 3-5 Sun Belt

Official athletic Web site: www.asuindians.com

What has distinguished the Indians' play the past three seasons has been their knack for playing close, but in most cases not coming out on the winning end of those close games. In 2002 they posted a 6-7 record, followed by a 5-7 mark in 2003. Last season, they fell off that pace to go 3-8 with a 3-4 mark in the league that was good for sixth place.

Consider that Arkansas State lost four of its first five games a year ago to Missouri, LSU, Memphis and Ole Miss, but picked up wins against Troy, UL Monroe and Utah State in the league.

On offense, where the Indians have just four starters returning, quarterback Nick Noce is back to direct the charge, which won't be easy to establish. Arkansas State ranked next-to-last in scoring offense (19.4 points per game) and passing offense (160.7 yards per game) last year while holding the seventh position in total offense. Noce has some talent, having passed for 2,115 yards and 13 touchdowns in 2004, but he was intercepted 16 times. Not helping the cause is the fact the Indians' top three receivers will not return. That leaves Levi DeJohnette as the wideout who must step forward and do so quickly. DeJohnette caught 25 passes last year for 280 yards and two scores, which is not going to strike fear in the hearts of opposing defenses.

The running back position offers star potential in 5-foot-11 senior Antonio Warren. Warren rushed for 1,075 yards and two touchdowns last year, becoming just the 14th player in school history to collect more than 1,000 yards rushing in a season.

Turnovers were a big problem for the ASU offense in 2004. The Indians were last in the league in turnover margin, losing 12 fumbles and throwing 17 interceptions.

Defensively, six starters are back and will be needed after star linebacker Josh Williams was dismissed from the team in May for "conduct detrimental to our team," according to coach Steve Roberts.

| DATE OPPONENT |
|-----------------------------|
| S. 3 @MISSOURI |
| S. 10 Tennessee-Martin |
| S. 17 @OKLAHOMA STATE |
| S. 24 Florida International |
| O. 1 @LOUISIANA-MONROE |
| O. 8 @NORTH TEXAS |
| O. 15 Louisiana-Lafayette |
| O. 22 Florida Atlantic |
| N. 5 @MIDDLE TENNESSEE |
| N. 12 Troy |
| N. 19 @ARMY |

Head coach:
Steve Roberts,
4th Year (14-22)
Career Record: 63-55-1

Stadium: Indian Stadium
Turf: Grass
Capacity: 30,458

FLORIDA INT'L**GOLDEN PANTHERS**

MIAMI

2004 Record: 3-7

Official athletic Web site: www.fiusports.com

Former Miami Dolphins quarterback Don Strock knew the challenges that faced him as coach of the Panthers, a new program entering a new football league. Last season, the Panthers posted a 3-7 record, beating Youngstown State in overtime to open the year and later picking up wins against Stephen F. Austin and Florida A&M, all I-AA opponents. But there is optimism at FIU because of the three Sun Belt teams the Panthers lost to last year—UL Monroe, UL Lafayette and Florida Atlantic—none of them beat the Panthers by more than nine points. Not a bad statement for a team that has only been playing football for three seasons.

More good news can be found in the fact FIU has 19 starters returning this year. And the offense isn't bad. The Panthers averaged 26.1 points and 378.6 yards a game last season, solid numbers for any team. The bad news, of course, is they gave up 32.5 points and 478.8 yards a game, numbers that must certainly be reduced if FIU is to enjoy any success.

On offense, quarterback Josh Padrick leads the way after throwing for 2,269 yards and 12 touchdowns last year. Wide receiver Cory McKinney, who caught 58 passes for 675 yards, was his favorite target. Other receivers back include Chandler Williams (46 catches, 525 yards, 3 TDs), tight end Samuel Smith (42, 510, 3) and running back Adam Gorman (11, 86, 1).

Running back is the position of most concern this year. Rashad Smith is gone, taking with him his 12 touchdowns and 1,133 rushing yards. Ben West, who played in just three games, carrying the ball 22 times for 137 yards, and Gorman, who had 15 carries for 56 yards, are the leading candidates for the starting job unless a freshman moves into the role.

The offensive line, where FIU concentrated much of its recruiting efforts last year, is also a concern. There is talent at the positions, but depth is a problem.

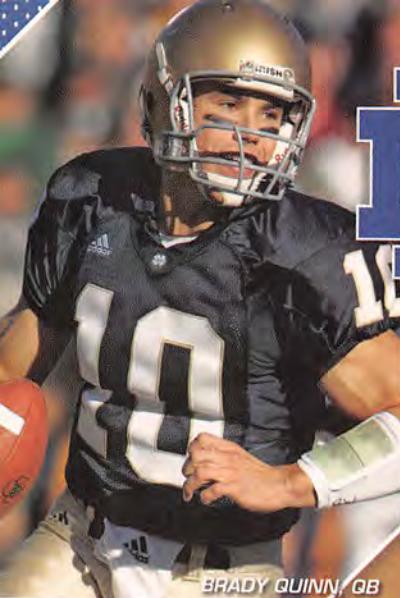
DATE OPPONENT

| |
|----------------------------|
| S. 3 @KANSAS STATE |
| S. 10 @TEXAS TECH |
| S. 24 @ARKANSAS STATE |
| O. 1 @FLORIDA A&M |
| O. 8 @TROY |
| O. 15 North Texas |
| O. 29 Middle Tennessee |
| N. 5 @LOUISIANA-MONROE |
| N. 12 @LOUISIANA-LAFAYETTE |
| N. 19 Western Kentucky |
| N. 26 @FLORIDA ATLANTIC |

Head coach:

Don Strock,
4th Year, (10-23)
Career Record: 10-23

Stadium: Florida International University Stadium
Turf: Artificial
Capacity: 17,000



NOTRE DAME

FIGHTING IRISH

SOUTH BEND, IND.

2004 Record: 6-6 overall (lost to Oregon State in the Insight Bowl, 38-21)

Stadium: Notre Dame Stadium

Turf: Grass

Official athletic Web site: www.und.com

Capacity: 80,795

FIVE-YEAR WINS TREND



Head coach: Charlie Weis, 1st Year (0-0) Career Record: 0-0

Assistant coaches: David Cutcliffe (asst. head coach/QBs), Bill Lewis (asst. head coach/DBs), Mike Haywood (off. coord./RBs), Rick Minter (def. coord.), Rob Ianello (TEs/recruiting coord.), John Latina (OL), Jappy Oliver (DL), Bernie Parmalee (TEs/ST asst.), Brian Polian (ST coord./DBs asst.)



2005 SCHEDULE

| DATE | OPPONENT | '04 RESULT |
|-------|----------------|------------|
| S. 3 | @PITTSBURGH | 38-41 |
| S. 10 | @MICHIGAN | 28-20 |
| S. 17 | Michigan State | 31-24 |
| S. 24 | @WASHINGTON | 38-3 |
| O. 1 | @PURDUE | 16-41 |
| O. 15 | USC | 10-41 |
| O. 22 | Brigham Young | 17-20 |
| N. 5 | Tennessee | 17-13 |
| N. 12 | Navy | 27-9 |
| N. 19 | Syracuse | |
| N. 26 | @STANFORD | 23-15 |

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 13
Lettermen returning/lost: 36/23

OFFENSE

| | | |
|----|----|------------------------------------|
| QB | 10 | Brady Quinn (6-4, 224, Jr.) |
| FB | 16 | Rashon Powers-Neal (6-2, 243, Sr.) |
| TB | 3 | Darius Walker (5-11, 200, So.) |
| LT | 68 | Ryan Harris (6-5, 289, Jr.) |
| LG | 50 | Dan Santucci (6-4, 292, Sr.) |
| C | 78 | John Sullivan (6-3, 295, Jr.) |
| RG | 74 | Dan Stevenson (6-5, 293, Sr.) |
| RT | 73 | Mark LeVoit (6-7, 310, Sr.) |
| TE | 88 | Anthony Fasano (6-4, 256, Sr.) |
| WR | 5 | Rhema McKnight (6-1, 215, Sr.) |
| WR | 21 | Maurice Stovall (6-5, 227, Sr.) |

DEFENSE

| | | |
|-----|----|-----------------------------------|
| LE | 75 | Chris Frome (6-5, 271, Sr.) |
| NG | 98 | Trevor Laws (6-0, 285, Jr.) |
| DT | 66 | Derek Landri (6-2, 278, Sr.) |
| RE | 95 | Victor Abiamiri (6-4, 269, Jr.) |
| WLB | 39 | Brandon Hoyte (5-11, 231, Sr.) |
| MLB | 46 | Corey Mays (6-1, 243, Sr.) |
| SLB | 18 | Chinedum Ndukwu (6-2, 223, Jr.) |
| CB | 20 | Terrell Lambert (5-10, 190, So.) |
| CB | 30 | Mike Richardson (5-11, 190, Jr.) |
| FS | 9 | Tom Zbikowski (5-11, 203, Jr.) |
| SS | 4 | Anthony Vernaglia (6-4, 220, So.) |

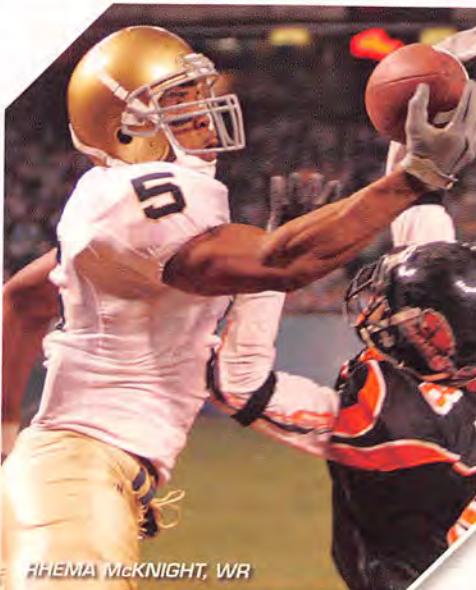
SPECIALISTS

| | | |
|----|----|----------------------------------|
| PK | 19 | D.J. Fitzpatrick (6-1, 200, Sr.) |
| P | 19 | D.J. Fitzpatrick (6-1, 200, Sr.) |

RATING THE RECRUITS

- Steve Quinn, LB
Last recruit from Philly may be most productive.
- Michael Turkovich, OL
Massive blocker (6-7, 285) from Pennsylvania.
- Joey Hibben, TE
Midwest's top TE prospect (6-5, 235) may play early.
- Paul Duncan, OL
Irish have had surprising luck recruiting Georgia.
- Scott Smith, LB
Illinois product could be the sleeper of this class.

MATT CASHORE / US PRESSWIRE



RHEMA MCKNIGHT, WR



CHARLIE WEIS

new leadership—heeded by incoming President Rev. John Jenkins—to either fish or cut bait.

The verdict was to cut bait—Willingham, that is.

Weis' Notre Dame pedigree comes with a degree, not a legacy on the football field. He was never an Irish player, but has surrounded himself with the likes of Mike Haywood (offensive coordinator/runnning backs coach) and Ron Powlus (director of personnel development), who lend credibility as former players. He was never a head coach, but has surrounded himself with assistants like David Cutcliffe (former Mississippi head coach), Bill Lewis (former head coach at Georgia Tech and East Carolina) and Rick Minter (ex-Cincinnati head coach).

Three Super Bowl rings and internships under Bill Parcells and Bill Belichick are assets that few in his profession can match—and advantages he hopes to exploit during the recruiting wars.

The 2005 Irish may struggle. Temptations to look at the waiver wire will have to give way to the patience of the college game. He has inherited a team that has been 11-13 over the past two seasons and has graduated most of its defensive talent.

With a flare for the dramatic, Weis unveiled his new approach to football in South Bend with what seemed to be a contrived tantrum at junior quarterback Brady Quinn and the rest of his offense. Accustomed to doing everything under the cloak of secrecy, Weis berated his first unit on the very first play of spring practice.

"We'll run that play for the next two hours if we have to, but we're going to get it right," Weis bellowed for all the cameras to see and record.

Welcome to town, Charlie.

Besides Quinn (191-of-353 passing for 2,586 yards and 17 TDs), the Irish will have a proven



entity in sophomore tailback Darius Walker (786 rushing yards, 7 TDs). Veteran offensive linemen John Sullivan, Bob Morton, Ryan Harris, Dan Stevenson and Mark LeVoir give Notre Dame a nice place to begin its attack.

Tight ends Anthony Fasano, Marcus Freeman and John Carlson will supply quality depth at a position that is critical in Weis' version of an offense. They'll set the table for receivers Rhema McKnight (42 receptions, 610 yards, 3 TDs), Maurice Stovall (21, 313, 1), Matt Shelton (20, 515, 6) and Jeff Samardzija (17, 274).

The Irish may need to outscore some teams, because some defensive holes may be hard to fill.

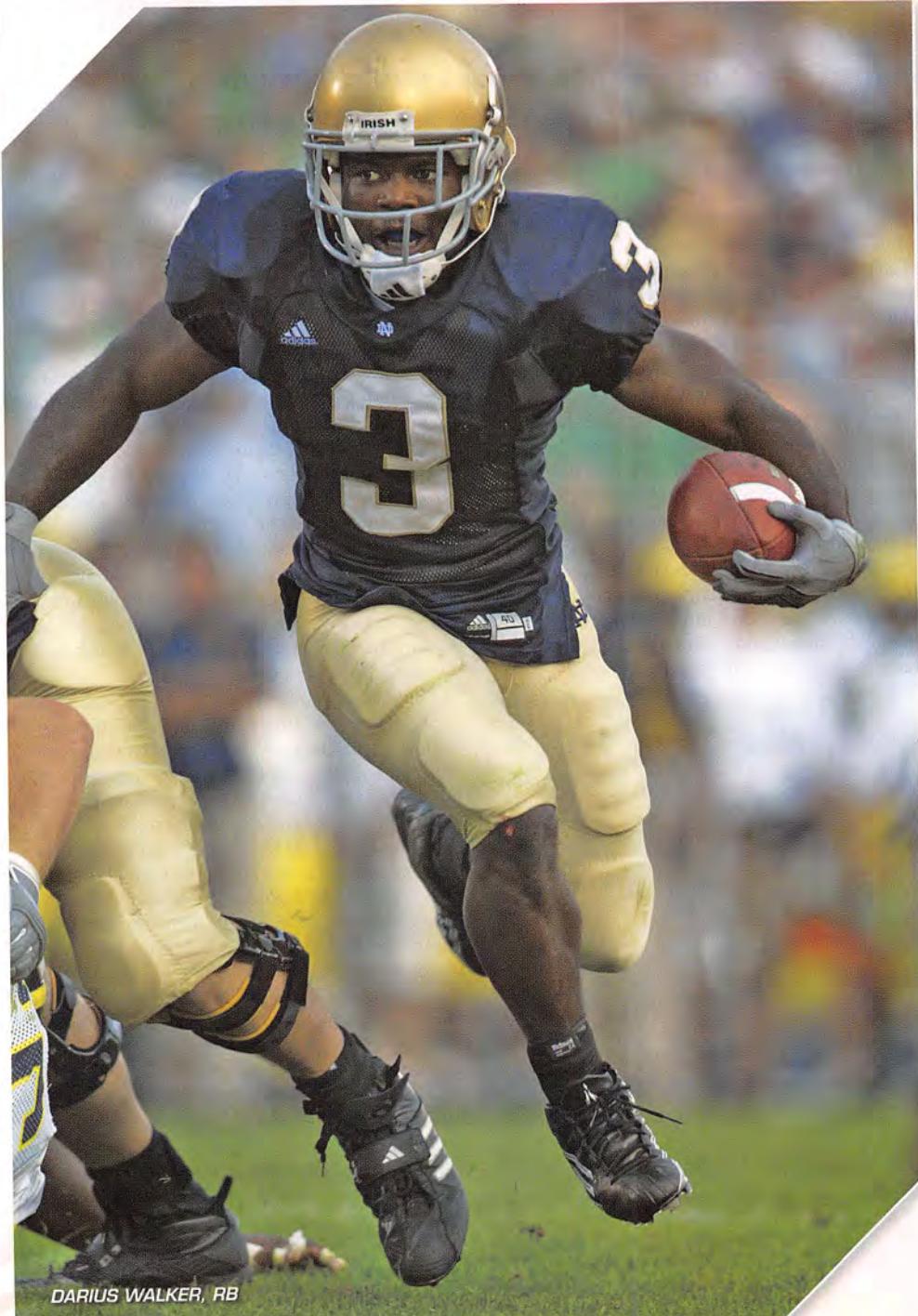
Defensive end Justin Tuck passed up a fifth year of eligibility for the NFL. That leaves

Victor Abiamiri and Chris Frome as the veterans at end. Derek Landri, Trevor Laws and Brian Beidatsch will try to shore up the interior of the defensive line.

Brandon Hoyte and Mitchell Thomas will be the best bets at outside linebacker, while Corey Mays will attempt to dominate inside.

Safety Tom Zbikowski is the only member of the Irish secondary back with experience. Cornerbacks Mike Richardson and Ambrose Wooden, along with safeties Freddie Parrish, Anthony Vernaglia and Chinedum Ndukwu will try to form a cohesive unit.

D.J. Fitzpatrick, who handled the punting and placekicking last season, seems to have a leg up on both jobs again. ♦



2004 TEAM STATS

| TEAM STATISTICS | ND | OPP |
|----------------------|------------|-----------|
| SCORING | 289 | 289 |
| Points Per Game | 24.1 | 24.1 |
| FIRST DOWNS | 217 | 225 |
| Rushing | 87 | 66 |
| Passing | 116 | 139 |
| Penalty | 14 | 20 |
| RUSHING YARDAGE | 1529 | 1058 |
| Yards gained rushing | 1794 | 1425 |
| Yards lost rushing | 265 | 367 |
| Rushing Attempts | 460 | 399 |
| Average Per Rush | 3.3 | 2.7 |
| Average Per Game | 127.4 | 88.2 |
| TDs Rushing | 17 | 6 |
| PASSING YARDAGE | 2617 | 3375 |
| Att-Comp-Int | 362-195-10 | 426-248-9 |
| Average Per Pass | 7.2 | 7.9 |
| Average Per Catch | 13.4 | 13.6 |
| Average Per Game | 218.1 | 281.2 |
| TDs Passing | 17 | 23 |
| TOTAL OFFENSE | 4146 | 4433 |
| Total Plays | 822 | 825 |
| Average Per Play | 5.0 | 5.4 |
| Average Per Game | 345.5 | 369.4 |
| KICK RETURNS: #-YDS | 41-766 | 47-936 |
| PUNT RETURNS: #-YDS | 33-358 | 29-239 |
| INT RETURNS: #-YDS | 9-201 | 10-105 |
| KICK RETURN AVERAGE | 18.7 | 19.9 |
| PUNT RETURN AVERAGE | 10.8 | 8.2 |
| INT RETURN AVERAGE | 22.3 | 10.5 |
| FUMBLES-LOST | 15-6 | 27-12 |
| PENALTIES-YARDS | 67-548 | 62-495 |
| Average Per Game | 45.7 | 41.2 |
| PUNTS-YARDS | 81-3285 | 63-2591 |
| Average Per Punt | 40.6 | 41.1 |
| Net punt average | 37.6 | 35.4 |
| TIME OF POSS./GAME | 30:50 | 29:10 |
| 3RD-DOWN CONV. | 68/183 | 67/181 |
| 3rd-Down Pct | 37% | 37% |
| 4TH-DOWN CONV. | 8/15 | 6/15 |
| 4th-Down Pct | 53% | 40% |
| SACKS BY-YARDS | 30-197 | 25-147 |
| MISCI YARDS | 79 | 0 |
| TOUCHDOWNS SCORED | 37 | 32 |
| FIELD GOALS-ATTEMPTS | 11-15 | 22-27 |
| PAT-ATTEMPTS | 34-35 | 29-29 |
| ATTENDANCE | 484770 | 340090 |
| Games/Avg Per Game | 6/80795 | 4/85022 |
| Neutral Site Games | | 2/61042 |

| SCORE BY QTRS | 1st | 2nd | 3rd | 4th | OT | Total |
|---------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|-------|
| Notre Dame | 80 | 63 | 69 | 77 | — | 289 |
| Opponents | 73 | 68 | 73 | 75 | — | 289 |

2004 INDIVIDUAL STATS OFFENSE

PASSING

Brady Quinn

| GP | Effic. | Att-Cmp-Int | Pct. | Yds. | TD | Avg/G |
|----|--------|-------------|------|------|----|-------|
| 12 | 125.87 | 353-191-10 | 54.1 | 2586 | 17 | 215.5 |

Pat Dillingham

| GP | Effic. | Att-Cmp-Int | Pct. | Yds. | TD | Avg/G |
|----|--------|-------------|------|------|----|-------|
| 5 | 110.07 | 6-4-0 | 66.7 | 31 | 0 | 6.2 |

RUSHING

| GP | Att. | Net Avg. | TD | Avg/G |
|----|------|----------|-----|-------|
| 11 | 185 | 786 | 4.2 | 7 |
| 9 | 127 | 515 | 4.1 | 5 |
| 12 | 35 | 138 | 3.9 | 1 |

RECEIVING

| GP | No. | Yds. | Avg. | TD | Avg/G |
|----|-----|------|------|----|-------|
| 12 | 42 | 610 | 14.5 | 3 | 50.8 |
| 11 | 27 | 367 | 13.6 | 4 | 33.4 |
| 9 | 21 | 313 | 14.9 | 1 | 34.8 |

DEFENSE

TACKLES

| GP | Solo | Ast. | Total |
|-----------------|------|------|-------|
| Mike Goolsby | 12 | 43 | 54 |
| Brandon Hoyte | 12 | 39 | 35 |
| Quentin Burrell | 12 | 42 | 30 |

SACKS

| GP | No. | Yds. |
|---------------|-----|------|
| Justin Tuck | 11 | 6.0 |
| Kyle Budinsak | 12 | 5.0 |
| Derek Curry | 12 | 4.5 |

INTERCEPTIONS

| No. | Yds. | Avg. | TD |
|---------------|------|------|------|
| Derek Curry | 2 | 39 | 19.5 |
| Mike Goolsby | 2 | 50 | 25.0 |
| Dwight Ellick | 2 | 20 | 10.0 |



LAMAR OWENS, QB

ANNAPOLIS, MD

NAVY

MIDSHIPMEN

2004 Record: 10-2 overall (beat New Mexico in the Emerald Bowl, 34-19)
Stadium: Navy-Marine Corps Memorial Stadium **Turf:** Grass
Official athletic Web site: www.navysports.com

FIVE-YEAR WINS TREND

| | | | | |
|------|------|------|------|------|
| 1 | 0 | 2 | 8 | 10 |
| 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 |

Head coach: Paul Johnson, 4th Year (20-17) **Career Record:** 82-27
Assistant coaches: Ken Niumatalolo (assst. head coach/OL), Buddy Green (def. coord./secondary),
Ivin Jasper (QBs), Chris Culton (FBs), Jeff Monken (slot backs), Brian Bohannon (WRs), Todd
Spencer (OTs), Dale Pehrson (DL), Lt. Jason Snider, USN (DL), Kevin Kelly (ILBs), Keith Jones
(OLBs), Ens. Tony Grantham, USN (OLBs), Ens. Danny O'Rourke, USN (secondary)

Capacity: 34,000

2005 SCHEDULE

| DATE | OPPONENT | '04 RESULT |
|-------------------|----------|------------|
| S. 3 | Maryland | |
| S. 10 | Stanford | |
| S. 24 @RICE | 14-13 | |
| O. 1 @DUKE | 27-12 | |
| O. 8 Air Force | 24-21 | |
| O. 15 Kent State | | |
| O. 29 @RUTGERS | 54-21 | |
| N. 5 Tulane | 10-42 | |
| N. 12 @NOTRE DAME | 9-27 | |
| N. 19 Temple | | |
| D. 3 @ARMY | 42-13 | |

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 8
Lettermen returning/lost: 30/36

OFFENSE

| | | |
|----|----|---------------------------------|
| QB | 2 | Lamar Owens (5-9, 188, Sr.) |
| FB | 36 | Matt Hall (5-9, 216, Jr.) |
| SB | 21 | Trey Hines (5-9, 200, Jr.) |
| SB | 29 | Marco Nelson (5-7, 178, Sr.) |
| LT | 79 | Matt Pritchett (6-2, 267, Sr.) |
| LG | 60 | Zach Gallion (6-2, 300, Jr.) |
| C | 69 | James Rossi (6-1, 268, Jr.) |
| RG | 63 | Antron Harper (5-11, 249, So.) |
| RT | 57 | Joe Person (6-4, 260, Jr.) |
| WR | 83 | Mick Yokitis (6-2, 223, Sr.) |
| WR | 87 | Jason Tomlinson (6-1, 192, Jr.) |

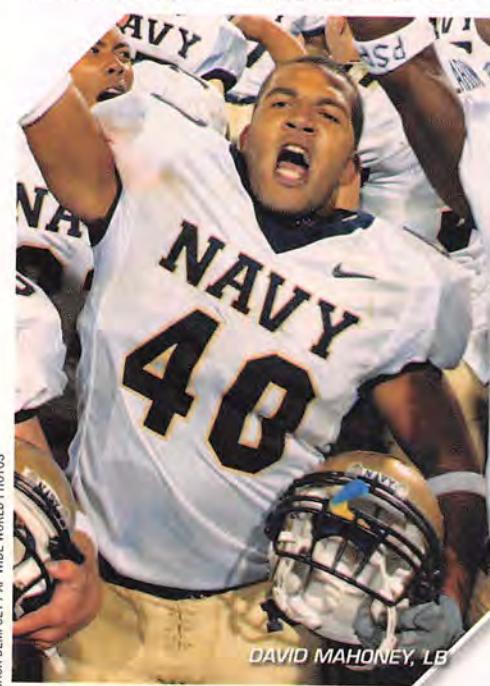
DEFENSE

| | | |
|-----|----|--------------------------------|
| LE | 49 | Jeremy Chase (6-2, 270, Sr.) |
| NG | 98 | Larry Cyc (6-2, 265, Jr.) |
| RE | 95 | John Chan (6-1, 246, Jr.) |
| OLB | 40 | David Mahoney (5-9, 216, Jr.) |
| ILB | 57 | Rob Caldwell (6-0, 222, Jr.) |
| ILB | 52 | Jacob Biles (5-11, 224, Sr.) |
| OLB | 45 | Tyler Tidwell (6-2, 216, Jr.) |
| CB | 8 | Jeremy McGown (5-11, 184, Jr.) |
| CB | 13 | Hunter Reddick (6-2, 192, Jr.) |
| FS | 25 | Dujuan Price (5-11, 217, Jr.) |
| ROV | 4 | Keenan Little (6-2, 194, Jr.) |

SPECIALISTS

| | | |
|----|----|-----------------------------|
| PK | 37 | Ethan Gouge (6-0, 168, Jr.) |
| P | 85 | Eric Shuey (5-10, 182, Sr.) |

JACK DEMPSEY / AP/WIDE WORLD PHOTOS



DAVID MAHONEY, LB

WEST POINT, N.Y.

ARMY CADETS



Record: 2-9 overall, 2-6 C-USA
Official athletic Web site: www.goarmysports.com



Honeymoons end quickly at places like the United States Military Academy, where football is taken seriously.

Bobby Ross's 2-9 record in his first season at the Army helm may

be forgiven, but not forgotten. He's had a year to stall his system, some time to put players in the right position and opportunity to get his assistants on the same page.

Winning is the expectation—anything less won't be tolerated. The Black Knights head into the 2005 season stronger and eager for improvement. Ross says 44 of its 47 upperclassmen increased their bench-press numbers over the winter.

"We are looking at some key development areas," Ross says. "If we get that development, we have a chance to be much more competitive than we've been in the past."

Quarterback Zac Dahman—145-of-265 passing in eight games last season for 1,767 yards and nine TDs with seven interceptions—is one of the key players who has to finally find his niche. A starter through most of his first three seasons at Army, Dahman has stopped short of establishing himself as the leader of the Army offense.

Running back Carlton Jones (1,171 rushing yards, 17 TDs) will carry a target on his back for most opponents. Receivers Jacob Murphy and Jeremy Trimble, along with tight end Jared Ulekowski, give Dahman plenty of sticky hands to throw to. However, an offensive line with only one returning letterman in center Pete Bier could experience some growing pains.

An experienced defensive front of ends Cameron Craig and Brandon Thompson and tackles Doug Meyer and Seth Lotts gives the Black Knights a sturdy foundation. Add in cornerbacks Dhyian Tarver and Ray Stith and linebackers Cason Shrode and Barrett Scruggs, and Army could be a difficult team to move the ball against. ♦

—Al Lesar

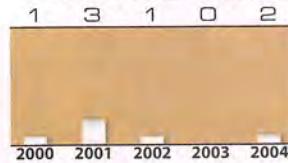
PHILADELPHIA

TEMPLE OWLS



2004 Record: 2-9 overall, 1-5 Big East
Official athletic Web site: www.owlsparts.com

FIVE-YEAR WINS TREND



2005 SCHEDULE

| DATE | OPPONENT | '04 RESULT |
|-------|------------------|------------|
| S. 10 | @BOSTON COLLEGE | |
| S. 17 | Baylor | |
| S. 24 | Iowa State | |
| O. 1 | Connecticut | 3-40 |
| O. 8 | Central Michigan | |
| O. 15 | @TCU | 17-21 |
| O. 22 | @AKRON | |
| N. 5 | @AIR FORCE | 22-31 |
| N. 12 | Massachusetts | |
| N. 19 | Arkansas State | |
| D. 3 | Navy | 13-42 |

Head coach: Bobby Ross, 2nd Year (2-9)

Career Record: 96-85-2

Stadium: Michie Stadium

Turf: Artificial

Capacity: 40,000

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 12
Lettermen returning/lost: 41/28

OFFENSE

| | | |
|----|----|---------------------------------|
| QB | 7 | Zac Dahman (6-0, 179, Sr.) |
| FB | 40 | Jacob Micaldi (5-11, 230, Jr.) |
| RB | 30 | Carlton Jones (5-9, 197, Sr.) |
| LT | 61 | Nathan Collier (6-6, 294, Jr.) |
| LG | 70 | Matt Wesiner (6-2, 280, Jr.) |
| C | 67 | Pete Bier (6-4, 282, Sr.) |
| RG | 62 | Miles Murray (6-2, 280, Jr.) |
| RT | 72 | Jonathan Connon (6-6, 287, Jr.) |
| TE | 88 | Jared Ulekowski (6-3, 244, Sr.) |
| WR | 17 | Jacob Murphy (6-2, 206, Sr.) |
| WR | 15 | Jeremy Trimble (6-0, 212, So.) |

DEFENSE

| | | |
|--------------------|----|----------------------------------|
| DE | 86 | Brandon Thompson (6-3, 244, So.) |
| DT | 90 | Doug Meyer (6-5, 263, Sr.) |
| DT | 69 | Seth Lotts (6-3, 243, Sr.) |
| DE | 94 | Cameron Craig (6-3, 247, Jr.) |
| LB | 22 | Luke Pell (6-0, 212, Jr.) |
| LB | 54 | Cason Shrode (6-2, 246, Jr.) |
| LB | 55 | Barrett Scruggs (6-0, 209, Jr.) |
| CB | 29 | Ray Stith (5-9, 176, Sr.) |
| CB | 20 | Dhyian Tarver (5-11, 186, Sr.) |
| FS | 4 | Randy Chasten (6-2, 205, Jr.) |
| SS | 33 | Caleb Campbell (6-2, 233, So.) |
| SPECIALISTS | | |
| PK | 48 | Austin Miller (6-2, 207, Jr.) |
| P | 30 | Owen Tolson (6-2, 200, So.) |

If coach Bobby Wallace can keep his Temple Owls on the football field and out of the training room, he'll be light-years ahead of last season.

While struggling through a 2-9 campaign, Temple was forced to play without five players listed as starters on the preseason depth chart because of injuries. Eleven players from the team's spring depth chart were out for the entire fall.

"Last season, we had to overcome a lot of adversity," says Wallace, who is beginning his eighth season on Philadelphia's North Broad Street. "I think we are a stronger team now because of it."

One area the Owls may not be stronger is at quarterback. Despite the team's record, junior quarterback Walter Washington had an amazing year. In the Owls' last Big East Conference season, he compiled 3,096 total yards to lead the league. However, instead of coming back to improve on those numbers, Washington opted to make himself available to the NFL.

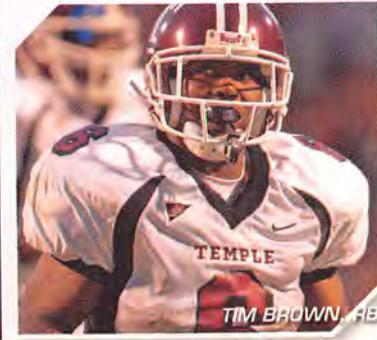
That left fifth-year senior Mike McGann to handle quarterback. He started all 12 games as a sophomore, but last year played in just one before being lost with an injury.

An offensive line comprised of veterans—John Gross, Stephen Bell, Elliot Seifert and Tariq Sanders—should give some running room for backs Tim Brown (432 rushing yards in '04) and Umar Ferguson (493).

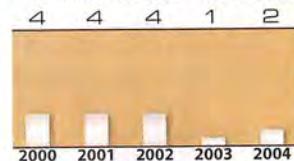
Jamel Harris (17 receptions, 217 yards) is the most potent weapon the Owls have at wide receiver.

Temple will try to recover from a 107th ranking in total defense a year ago. Rush end Mike Mendenhall and corners Andrew Turner and Ray Lamb will be among the cornerstones Wallace will use in the reclamation project. ♦

—Al Lesar



FIVE-YEAR WINS TREND



2005 SCHEDULE

| DATE | OPPONENT | '04 RESULT |
|-------|------------------------|------------|
| S. 1 | @ARIZONA STATE | |
| S. 10 | North Carolina State | |
| S. 17 | Toledo | 17-45 |
| S. 24 | Middle Tennessee State | |
| O. 1 | @BOWLING GREEN | 16-70 |
| O. 8 | Maryland | 22-45 |
| O. 15 | Miami (FL) | |
| O. 22 | @CLEMSON | |
| O. 29 | Miami (OH) | |
| N. 5 | @VIRGINIA | 14-44 |
| N. 19 | @NAVY | |

Head coach: Bobby Wallace, 8th Year (19-60)

Career Record: 101-96-1

Stadium: Lincoln Financial Field

Turf: Grass

Capacity: 68,532

PROJECTED STARTERS

Starters returning: 11
Lettermen returning/lost: 49/18

OFFENSE

| | | |
|----|----|----------------------------------|
| QB | 16 | Mike McGann (6-6, 225, Sr.) |
| RB | 6 | Tim Brown (5-8, 185, Sr.) |
| LT | 78 | John Gross (6-6, 295, Sr.) |
| LG | 69 | Sam McNulty (6-3, 320, Jr.) |
| C | 59 | Alex Derenthal (6-4, 280, Fr.) |
| RG | 66 | Stephen Bell (6-4, 310, Sr.) |
| RT | 70 | Elliot Seifert (6-7, 300, Jr.) |
| TE | 93 | Leyon Abuzaika (6-3, 235, Fr.) |
| FL | 3 | Mike Holley (5-10, 180, Sr.) |
| WR | 10 | Jamel Harris (6-1, 185, Jr.) |
| WR | 21 | Brian Allbrooks (5-11, 180, Sr.) |

DEFENSE

| | | |
|--------------------|----|---------------------------------|
| DE | 45 | Mike Mendenhall (6-3, 250, Sr.) |
| NT | 99 | Antwon Burton (6-3, 315, Sr.) |
| DT | 58 | Adam Fichter (6-4, 300, Sr.) |
| DE | 89 | Rodney Wormley (6-3, 240, So.) |
| LB | 25 | Ryan Gore (6-0, 225, Jr.) |
| LB | 96 | Manuel Tapia (6-3, 235, Sr.) |
| LB | 4 | Justin Johnson (6-1, 205, Sr.) |
| CB | 14 | Andrew Turner (6-0, 185, Sr.) |
| CB | 20 | Ray Lamb (5-10, 185, Sr.) |
| FS | 23 | Durell Davis (5-11, 185, Jr.) |
| SS | 15 | Bobby Fulmore (6-0, 200, Sr.) |
| SPECIALISTS | | |
| PK | 13 | Ryan Lux (6-3, 200, Sr.) |
| P | 12 | Jake Hendy (6-4, 225, Sr.) |



DIVISION I-AA

Expect Furman to cap mythical A-10/SoCon Challenge with I-AA championship

By Matt McKenzie
Street & Smith's Staff Writer

During college basketball season, one of the more intriguing matchups is the ACC/Big Ten Challenge, where teams from the respective conferences play one another for bragging rights.

If Division I-AA officials had their way, they might like to open this football season with the Atlantic 10/Southern Conference challenge. After all, each of the two conferences has four teams ranked in Street & Smith's preseason Top 25 I-AA poll.

"There's no doubt that the A-10 and

Southern Conference are really two of the premier leagues in I-AA football right now," Furman coach Bobby Lamb says. "Anytime you can play through the schedule of those opponents ... I really think the toughness of the league can prepare you for the playoffs."

Any one of the eight teams ranked in the preseason Top 25 has a legitimate shot of winning the 2005 title game, but it likely will come down to two squads, Furman and 2004 national champion James Madison, that squared off in a memorable quarterfinals game in last year's playoff.

Up 13-7 with 5:11 to play, the Paladins had the chance to make it a two-possession game as they lined up for a 45-yard field goal. But JMU defensive tackle Demetrius Shambley blocked the kick, giving the Dukes new life. James Madison promptly used all but 28 seconds on the clock to drive down the field for



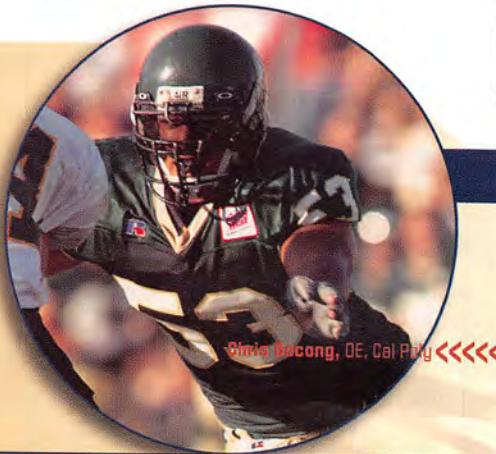
the winning score, a one-yard run by Raymond Hines. That was the closest anyone played JMU in the playoffs, as the Dukes next beat A-10 foe William & Mary by 14 in the semifinals, followed by a 31-21 victory over Montana for the title.

Lamb says the James Madison game isn't mentioned much as far as the team goes, but he has a strong and recurring memory of the contest.

"We don't really talk about it, but I can tell you from the inside it sticks with you each and every day," Lamb says. "Watching them win the championship, we knew we were good enough to beat them. They just made a couple more plays than we did. But that game can do nothing but fuel your drive to get better."

And better is what Furman is this year, led by returning starting QB Ingle Martin. A transfer from Florida two seasons ago, Martin came into the program and made an immediate impact last season, throwing for 2,792 yards and 22 TDs. He's also a year deep into the system, which can do nothing but help the senior, Lamb says.

"It was really amazing the first five days of spring practice in how much better he was than last year," Lamb says. "He knew where to go when he got in trouble and is



DIVISION I-AA

DIVISION I-AA

All-America Team

OFFENSE

QB Martin Hankins (6-0, 205, Jr.) SE Louisiana

RB Clifton Dawson (5-10, 190, Jr.) Harvard

RB Travis Glasford (5-11, 190, Sr.) Western Illinois

OL Matt Magerko (6-0, 285, Sr.) James Madison

OL Jeff Bolton (6-4, 325, Sr.) Montana State

OL Chad Motte (6-4, 303, Sr.) Georgia Southern

OL Stafford Davis (6-2, 302, Sr.) Illinois State

C Antonio Narcisse (6-1, 305, Sr.) Portland State

WR Eric Kimble (5-10, 195, Sr.) Eastern Washington

WR David Ball (6-3, 185, Jr.) New Hampshire

TE Daniel Fells (6-3, 236, Sr.) UC Davis

PK Jon Scifres (6-2, 197, Sr.) Southwest Missouri State

RS Marquay McDaniel (6-0, 190, Sr.) Hampton

DEFENSE

DL Sean Conover (6-5, 254, Sr.) Bucknell

DT Tom Parks (6-4, 260, Sr.) Delaware

DE Brady Fosmark (6-3, 255, Sr.) Weber State

DE Chris Gocong (6-3, 255, Sr.) Cal Poly

LB William Freeman (6-3, 235, Sr.) Furman

LB Gian Villante (6-2, 232, Jr.) Hofstra

LB Justin Durant (6-2, 235, Jr.) Hampton

DB Shannon James (5-10, 196, Sr.) Massachusetts

DB Ken Chicoine (6-1, 200, Jr.) Cal Poly

DB Reed Doughty (6-1, 208, Sr.) Northern Colorado

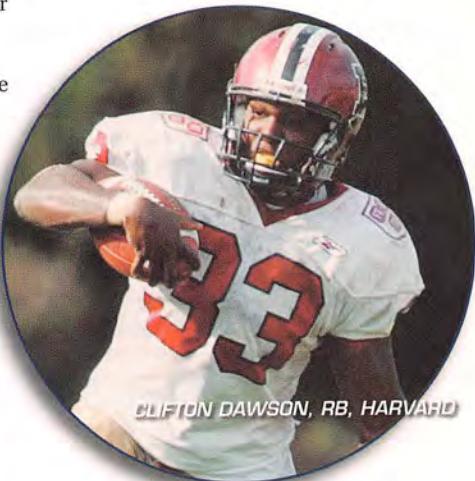
DB A.J. Bryant (6-5, 190, Sr.) Georgia Southern

P David Simonhoff (6-2, 175, Jr.) Southeast Missouri State

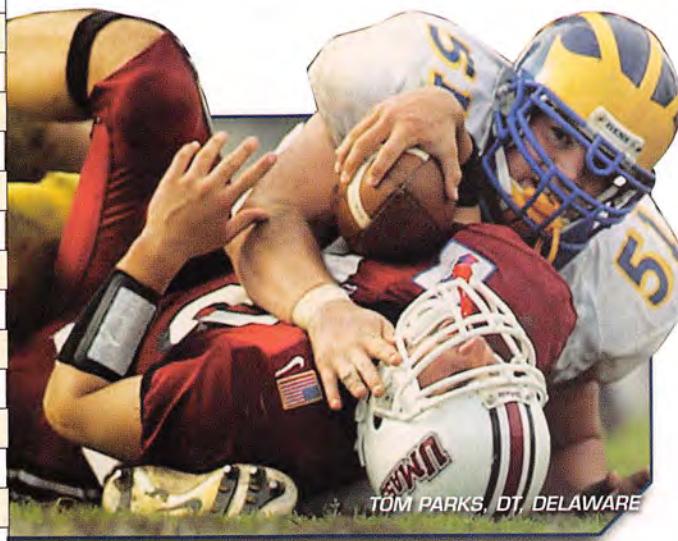
defensive end Roy Ravenell and linebacker William Freeman, last year's Southern Conference Defensive Player of the Year. Freeman had 100 tackles in 2004 and is the kind of player Lamb says the team "can build our defense around."

If Furman's defense can't hold up throughout the season, then James Madison will be primed for a title repeat. Like the Paladins, all of the Dukes' running backs return, as does QB Justin Rascati, who has a year under his belt in the system after transferring from Louisville.

With just 16 spots in the I-AA playoffs, it could mean some familiar faces will again meet for the championship—especially if they're from either the A-10 or Southern Conference. ♦



CLIFTON DAWSON, RB, HARVARD

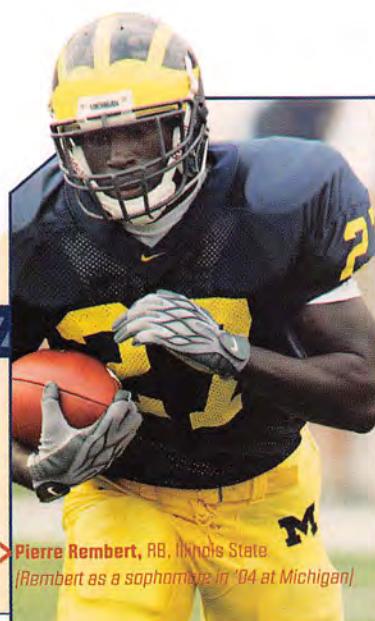


TOM PARKS, DT, DELAWARE

just mentally better. I expect him to pick up right where he left off last year."

Furman used three running backs (Cedrick Gipson, Brandon Mays and Daric Carter) last season and all are back, prompting Lamb to say it's the best running game the Paladins have had since the coach's arrival in 2001.

Although the Paladins lost several starters on defense, they return all-league



Pierre Rembert, RB, Illinois State
(Rembert as a sophomore in '04 at Michigan)

PREDICTIONS

TOP PLAYERS

Offense **Martin Hankins**, QB, SE Louisiana

Defense **Chris Gocong**, DE, Cal Poly

Newcomer **Pierre Rembert**, RB, Illinois State

| TOP 25 | |
|--------|--------------------|
| 1 | Furman |
| 2 | James Madison |
| 3 | Montana |
| 4 | New Hampshire |
| 5 | Southern Illinois |
| 6 | Eastern Washington |
| 7 | Delaware |
| 8 | Georgia Southern |
| 9 | Grambling State |
| 10 | Western Kentucky |
| 11 | Hampton |
| 12 | Northwestern State |
| 13 | William & Mary |
| 14 | Lehigh |
| 15 | Alabama State |
| 16 | Cal Poly |
| 17 | Wofford |
| 18 | Lafayette |
| 19 | Texas State |
| 20 | Appalachian State |
| 21 | Jacksonville State |
| 22 | Penn |
| 23 | Drake |
| 24 | Coastal Carolina |
| 25 | La Salle |

A-10 looks to take home third national title in as many seasons

By John O'Connor
Richmond Times-Dispatch

"Back-to-back national champions" is a nice punctuation to a portfolio. That's the distinction owned by the Atlantic 10 Football Conference heading into 2005.

James Madison won last year's national title, while four A-10 teams advanced to the I-AA quarterfinals, a first for any league. Delaware captured the 2003 championship. The A-10 became the first I-AA conference to have two different teams win the national title in consecutive seasons.

An A-10 three-peat seems highly unlikely—or does it in this strong and balanced league? Last preseason, James Madison was projected to finish fourth among six A-10 South Division teams by league coaches and selected media. Then the Dukes went 13-2.

In the final 2004 I-AA polls, four A-10 teams were ranked in the top 10. Ten of the league's 12 teams appeared in I-AA's rankings during last season. In the final Sagarin Ratings, the A-10 was ranked first among I-AA leagues, ninth among all Division I leagues, ahead of three I-A conferences (Conference USA, Sun Belt and Mid-American). There is the evidence that supports the A-10's contention that it is the planet's finest I-AA league.

NORTH DIVISION

New Hampshire had posted five straight non-winning seasons in Atlantic 10 competition under coach Sean McDonnell before breaking out last year with a North Division championship, a victory at I-A Rutgers, the first playoff win (at Georgia Southern) in school history and a No. 6 ranking in the final I-AA poll. Based on the return of

key offensive players, the Wildcats seem in excellent shape for a run comparable to their 10-3 (6-2 in the A-10) of a year ago.

In 2004, Ricky Santos averaged 255.2 passing yards per game, the most ever for an A-10 freshman. The conference's co-Rookie of the Year also threw for a league-leading 31 touchdowns as the Wildcats averaged 32.8 points. Junior David Ball, all-conference as a sophomore, caught 17 TD passes, second nationally. Another all-league receiver, senior tight end Jonathan Williams, is back after making 43 receptions for 520 yards.

New Hampshire's defense needs an upgrade for another special season. In 2004, the Wildcats finished last among A-10 teams in total defense (404.5 yards per game), though they allowed only 26.1 points per game.

At Massachusetts, think new. First, the Minutemen hope they're done with the growing pains that accompanied the arrival of new coach Don Brown in 2004. They were whistled for a league-high 111 penalties (86 yards per game) and started A-10 competition 0-3, with a pair of home losses. UMass, which finished 6-5 (4-4 in the A-10) bounced back by winning four of its last five.

New also applies to personnel. Five I-A transfers joined the program during the offseason, including a couple of offensive linemen from Big East Conference schools and quarterback Taylor Humphrey, a Californian who redshirted as a freshman last season at Hawaii. Humphrey will challenge Tim Day, a senior who passed for 2,481 yards in 2004, his first year as a starter. But Day also threw a league-high 17 interceptions.

Massachusetts will pound the ball at defenses with Steve Baylark, a 6-0 225-pound all-league choice who averaged a conference-high 103.5 rushing yards per game as a junior.

When Brown directed Northeastern's program (2000-03), the Huskies consistently played some of the best defense in the league. Now, UMass has the defensive strength. All 11 defensive starters are back,

and senior safety Shannon James is the best of the bunch.

Continuation of trend reversal is the theme at Hofstra. The Pride went 7-2 in conference play and shared the league championship in 2001, its first year of A-10 affiliation. Then came a 4-5 league finish in 2002 and a 2-7 mark in 2003. Last season, Hofstra began a mini-rebound with a 3-5 conference record (5-6 overall). Another forward step is forthcoming with 19 starters back.

In the run-and-shoot offense of coach Joe Gardi, the Pride will frighten defenses with three top-shelf wideouts and a quarterback who appeared to be getting over the hump late last season. Wide receiver Marques Colston (1,859 career receiving yards) is back for his senior season after missing all of 2004 with a shoulder injury. At 6-4 and 230 pounds, Colston is a load with good speed and can outjump most coverage men.

Maine went from 2004 preseason favorite in the North Division to a 3-5 league record (5-6 overall) due primarily to narrow defeats. The Black Bears turned in one of college football's most surprising results—winning at Mississippi State—but dropped four games by a touchdown or less. In a related stat, Maine kicked only three field goals (seven attempts).

Maine needs six new starters from a defense that last season allowed an average of 403.7 yards, 11th in the 12-team A-10, and had only 16 sacks, last in the conference. The Bears will retool around senior linebacker Jermaine Walker, a second team all-league choice in 2004. He'll get help from sophomore linebacker John Wormuth, part of Maine's defensive rotation last year as a true freshman.

Junior Arel Gordon will again be one of the most difficult A-10 players to catch. The 5-9 175-pounder averaged 26.5 yards per kick return last season, scoring twice, and also scored on a punt return. Coach Jack Cosgrove plans to feature Gordon more as a receiver in 2005. Maine is set at quarterback with junior Ron Whitcomb, who has thrown at least one TD pass in 21 of 22 starts, and completed 60.9 percent of his passes for 2,318 yards last season.

In a league loaded with quality passing attacks, Rhode Island operates on an island.

PREDICTIONS

NORTH

1. New Hampshire
2. Massachusetts
3. Hofstra
4. Maine
5. Rhode Island
6. Northeastern

SOUTH

1. James Madison
2. Delaware
3. William & Mary
4. Villanova
5. Richmond
6. Towson

TOP PLAYERS

| | |
|----------|----------------------------------|
| Offense | David Ball, WR, New Hampshire |
| Defense | Shannon James, DB, Massachusetts |
| Newcomer | Matt Hale, WR, Richmond |

GAMES TO WATCH

| | |
|----------|---------------------------------|
| 10.01.05 | James Madison at Hofstra |
| 10.08.05 | New Hampshire at William & Mary |
| 10.22.05 | James Madison at Delaware |
| 10.29.05 | New Hampshire at Massachusetts |



David Ball
WR, New Hampshire

he Rams move the ball via the triple option, which can pose problems for A-10 defenses geared for dropback schemes.

But coach Tim Stowers' team must reduce fumbles to improve on last season's 7 record (2-6 in the A-10). The Rams lost a league-high 24 fumbles in 2004, and finished last in the league in turnover margin. That, in part, is why they averaged only 24.1 points.

Doing the ball-handling again will be quarterback Jayson Davis, a senior with quick feet who rushed for 466 yards and 11 TDs last season, when he missed two games due to injury. Davis has been a regular since his freshman year and likely will surpass the 2,000-yard rushing mark for his career early in 2005.

Getting handoffs and pitches will be three returning runners who line up behind Davis: senior Calvin Poole, junior Jerell Jones and junior Chad Campbell. Those three combined for 1,032 rushing yards last season, when Rhode Island led the A-10 in rushing for the third straight year and was ranked fourth nationally in that department.

Northeastern has a major threat at wide receiver—senior Cory Parks—and an offensive line with NFL-like bulk. Those are the two points of emphasis for a program that returns seven starters on each side of the ball from the outfit that went 5-6 last season (4-4 in the A-10).

Parks was a first-team all-league pick in 2004, when he made 65 receptions for 1,096 yards (12 TDs), and the Miami resident has 2,501 career receiving yards. But gone is quarterback Shawn Brady, the A-10's third-leading passer last season. Coach Rocky Hager, in his second season, will go with a freshman, either Anthony Orio or John Sperazza, at QB.

SOUTH DIVISION

An old-school approach took **James Madison** to the 2004 Division I-AA championship. Run the ball. Stop the run.

No need to radically change routes. The Dukes, who went 13-2 overall and 7-1 in the A-10 last season, will again be physical and quick with 11 starters back. Madison's defense is small, but these Dukes get to the ball in a hurry. The best player on the team may be sophomore safety Tony LeZotte, who's typical of JMU's personnel. The 2004 co-rookie of the year and first team all-league choice is 6-0 and played at 175 pounds last season. But LeZotte delivered big blows in run support for a defense that gave up an average of only 87.3 rushing yards.

Three starters are back on the defensive line. The best are seniors Brandon Beach and Frank Cobbs, a pair of 6-1 tackles. The Dukes need new contributors at linebacker, but LeZotte will anchor a secondary that brings back very athletic defenders.

Quarterback Justin Rascati switched from I-A Louisville and fit in perfectly as a JMU sophomore. He passed when needed and ran when there were openings. But mostly, he let Madison's strong offensive line create creases for three backs who took turns accepting handoffs. The Dukes return all three runners—senior Raymond Hines and juniors Alvin Banks and Maurice Fenner—and each has picked up more than 1,400 career yards.

Senior Matt Magerko, a 290-pound All-America guard who JMU coach Mickey Matthews believes would be an NFL lock if he were 6-4 rather than 6-0, will block along with senior tackle Harry Dunn, who does have NFL dimensions (6-7, 330 pounds). Junior D.D. Boxley is among the league's fastest receivers, and Matthews wants the Dukes to pass a bit more this season.

No A-10 team lived on the edge more than **Delaware** in 2004. Seven of the Blue Hens' games were decided by a touchdown or less as Delaware (9-4, 7-1) advanced to the I-AA quarterfinals after winning the national title in 2003.

Whatever late-game mojo coach K.C. Keeler packed last season, he needs to relocate. Delaware trailed during the fourth quarter in five of its nine victories. Offensively, the Blue Hens will once again have a variety of options.

They can strike with a quick back, 180-pound sophomore Omar Cuff (673 rushing yards in eight games). They can play a power game with 230-pound junior runner Niquan Lee (9 rushing TDs). They can keep defenses honest with the scrambling ability of senior quarterback Sonny Riccio (315 rushing yards). And they can have Riccio, in his second season at Delaware after transferring from Missouri, pass to a pair of the league's best wideouts, 6-2 senior David Boler (2,008 career receiving yards) and 6-5 senior Brian Ingram (1,259 career receiving yards). Riccio established a program record for completions last season (259) while passing for 2,698 yards.

Through 25 seasons as **William & Mary's** coach, Jimmey Laycock never had trouble developing quarterbacks. He needs to do that again if the Tribe is going to remain among the A-10's elite.

Gone is Lang Campbell, the QB who won the 2004 Walter Payton Award and led W&M to a school-record 11 wins, a trip to the I-AA semifinals and a 7-1 mark in A-10 play (11-3 overall). The candidates to replace him are sophomore Mike Potts and freshman Jake Phillips. The Tribe also lost second-team all-league wide receiver Dominique Thompson. Otherwise, W&M is in great shape.

Junior Elijah Brooks, a Kent State transfer who gained 661 rushing yards for the Tribe last season, and Delmus Coley, who missed 2004 due to injury, are Laycock's

kind of tailbacks: dangerous as runners and receivers.

Reduce turnovers and protect the quarterback. If **Villanova** can reach those two goals, championship contention seems likely.

The Wildcats have plenty of veterans returning from a team that led the A-10 in total defense and averaged 30 points. That experience should help coach Andy Talley's crew snap a disturbing trend from 2004: losing shootouts. Four of the five league losses Villanova (6-5, 3-5) absorbed last season came to opponents that made the playoffs: James Madison, New Hampshire, William and Mary and Delaware. In those four games, the 'Cats' otherwise strong defense allowed an average of 36.5 points, spoiling good Villanova offensive performances in three of them.

The Wildcats committed 27 turnovers (14 interceptions). That should improve now that QB Marvin Burroughs, also an occasional running threat, is a junior. By now, he is very familiar with three fine receivers, senior J.J. Outlaw (third-team all-league), senior John Dieser and junior Chris Polite. Sophomore tight end Matt Cherry also rates as a potent pass catcher. But first, Burroughs needs time. Villanova allowed a league-high 42 sacks last season.

The defense, very tough against the run, will rely on a pair of All-A-10 first-teamers: senior linemen Darrell Adams and linebacker Brian Hulea.

Richmond will be better. But the Spiders may not be able to climb much in the A-10 standings during coach Dave Clawson's second season because the competition in the South Division is so strong.

Clawson needs to determine if senior Stacy Tutt, who threw 14 interceptions while UR was going 3-8 last season (2-6 in the league), remains at quarterback. The 6-2 230-pound senior is one of the A-10's best athletes and may help the Spiders more at wide receiver, where he played as a sophomore. Can Richmond can get acceptable QB play from redshirt freshman Will Healy or true freshman Levi Brown?

Towson has small guys who can play. The Tigers need a power punch on both sides of the line after a last-place finish (3-8, 0-8) in 2004, their first in the conference after switching from the Patriot League.

Coach Gordy Combs will use 16 returning starters (10 on offense) to keep building, but most of Towson's A-10 games last season were decisive defeats. The Tigers, primarily a sophomore-junior team, averaged only 17.7 points last season with freshman Andrew Goldbeck at quarterback. He showed promising signs late in 2004, passing for more than 300 yards in two of his last three games. The Tigers should get a lift from wide receiver James Byroads, who didn't play last season because of injury.



| | |
|----|--------------------|
| 1. | Montana |
| 2. | Eastern Washington |
| 3. | Northern Arizona |
| 4. | Montana State |
| 5. | Portland State |
| 6. | Idaho State |
| 7. | Weber State |
| 8. | Sacramento State |

Grizzlies looking for 13th straight trip to Division I-AA playoff party

By Loren Jorgensen
The (Salt Lake City) Deseret News

"Dynasty" is a word that is probably thrown around too liberally in the sports world. But when it comes to Big Sky Conference football, there is no better way to describe the front-runner.

Simply put, the University of Montana has built a football dynasty. The Grizzlies are the Big Sky's king that simply won't be dethroned. Sure, there are conference foes that put together "dream seasons" and come close, but there is no question as to who's the boss.

The Grizzlies have earned 12 consecutive Division I-AA playoff berths. They've won or shared the league title seven consecutive seasons and 10 times in the past 12 years. They have a pair of national titles, have been to the championship game three other times—including last season—and advanced to the national semifinals once more in the past dozen years.

Unfortunately for the other seven teams in the league, 2005 should be more of the same. Look for third-year coach Bobby Hauck to lead the Grizzlies to yet another league crown and earn a lucky 13th straight playoff appearance.

Montana needs to find a replacement for quarterback Craig Ochs, but that never seems to be a problem. The Grizzlies have been able to replace quarterbacks—and even head coaches—without missing a beat the past dozen years.

Hauck, who has followed successful coaches Don Read, Mick Dennehy and Joe Glenn, completed spring drills with a pair of QBs battling for the coveted starting spot. Sophomore Jason Washington, a transfer from Bowling Green, and redshirt freshman Cole Bergquist will continue to compete for the starting job this fall.

Montana has six starters returning on offense, including running back Lex Hilliard (972 yards rushing in 2004) and receiver Jon Talmage (55 catches, 819 yards, 9 touchdowns).

The Grizzlies' defense is just as loaded, led by linebacker Shane MacIntyre, cornerback Kevin Edwards and linemen Alan Saenz and Lance Spencer.

The result should have Montana not only as the team to beat in the Big Sky, but also one of the top teams in all of Division I-AA.

Eastern Washington actually finished with the same league record (6-1) as Montana last season to grab a piece of the Big Sky title. The Eagles earned a playoff berth and made a bit of a splash by knocking off top-seeded Southern Illinois in the first round before losing by one point in the quarterfinals to Sam Houston State.

Eastern has 15 starters returning, including QB Erik Meyer, the reigning Big Sky Offensive Player of the Year. Meyer figures to be one of the top Walter Payton Award candidates this season after passing for 3,707 yards and 31 touchdowns while completing 67.8 percent of his attempts a year ago.

Meyer's top target, Eric Kimble, is also back. Kimble caught 83 passes for 1,453 yards in 2004 with a mind-boggling 19 TDs. Sophomore Rocky Hanni, who became the first-ever offensive lineman to earn the Big Sky's Newcomer-of-the-Year award last season, anchors the line. The loss of the team's top two running backs will be somewhat alleviated by the addition of Ryan Cole, a transfer from Oregon State.

Leading the way for coach Paul Wulff's defense will be linebacker Joey Cwik and cornerback Isaiah Trufant. The Eagles, with six straight winning seasons, should make it seven in a row.

After a breakout 2003 season, **Northern Arizona** was the league's biggest disappointment in 2004. The Lumberjacks earned a piece of the league crown and got to the quarterfinals of the I-AA playoffs two years ago, only to fall to 4-7 overall and 3-4 in league games last season.

Look for NAU to rebound behind the throwing arm of junior Jason Murrietta, who was the Big Sky's Offensive Player of the Year in 2003. While Murrietta had a bit of a sophomore slump, he still managed to pass for 2,495 yards and 16 touchdowns last season. With eight returning starters on offense, the Lumberjacks should be able to produce better than the 22.2 points they averaged a year ago.

Mike Kramer usually has **Montana State** in the thick of the conference race right down to the wire. In fact, the Bobcats actually tied for the league crown in 2002 and 2003. They were atop the league standings last season as well, before losing their final three games to fall to 4-3 in Big Sky play.

Quarterback Travis Lulay is a veteran of three previous Big Sky campaigns. Lulay has a top returning receiver to throw to in Rick Gatewood (64 catches, 995 yards) and a top running back to hand the ball to in Justin Domineck (736 rushing yards). Six defensive starters are back, led by linebacker Mac Mollohan and safety Toph Grenfell.

Portland State was the hottest team in the league at the end of the regular season last year. The Vikings won their final four games—including a 35-32 upset over Montana—to finish the year 7-4 overall and 4-3 in the Big Sky.

Tim Walsh's club was hit some by graduation, however, so 2005 may be a bit of a rebuilding year. One skill position star returning is running back Joe Rubin, who

TOP PLAYERS

| | |
|----------|------------------------------------|
| Offense | Erik Meyer, QB, Eastern Washington |
| Defense | Brady Fosmark, DE, Weber State |
| Newcomer | Jason Washington, QB, Montana |

GAMES TO WATCH

| | |
|----------|--------------------------------------|
| 09.17.05 | Sacramento State at Portland State |
| 10.08.05 | Eastern Washington at Northern Ariz. |
| 10.15.05 | Eastern Washington at Montana |
| 11.19.05 | Montana at Montana State |

had 825 yards on the ground last season. Junior Sawyer Smith, who threw just six passes last season, is expected to become the team's new starting quarterback. The receivers should be solid, led by Shaun Bodiford and Pac-10 transfers Nic Costa (Arizona) and Jordan Carey (Oregon).

Five starters return on the defensive side of the ball, led by linebacker Joey King and cornerback Dominic Dixon. The defensive line will be inexperienced.

Idaho State won eight games two years in a row before falling to 3-8 last season. With 16 starters back and more experience almost everywhere but quarterback, the Bengals hope last year was the exception.

ISU's defense returns eight starters, led by linebacker Kris Krosch, lineman Jermaine Horn and cornerback David Beverly. Offensively, coach Larry Lewis has more holes to fill—most notably at quarterback with the departure of two-year starter Mark Hetherington.

Weber State finished last in the conference with a 1-6 record in the league and 1-10 overall. Still, there is plenty of excitement for the Wildcat football program in Utah right now thanks to the return of a very familiar face.

Ron McBride, who was the head coach 40 miles from the Weber State campus at the University of Utah for 13 years, takes over in Ogden. McBride is well known and well liked locally and provided instant recruiting credibility for the Wildcats. McBride has always been known as a strong recruiter. After all, virtually every starter on Utah's unbeaten Fiesta Bowl winning team coached by Urban Meyer last year was recruited to Utah by McBride.

McBride inherited a few outstanding players himself, most notably All-America defensive end Brady Fosmark, who had 18.5 tackles for loss and eight sacks as a junior.

Sacramento State lost All-America receiver Fred Amey and star quarterback Ryan Leadingham from last year's 3-8 team to graduation. As a result, third-year coach Steve Mooshagian has his work cut out for him. The Hornets do have top rusher Ryan Mole back after an 858-yard season.

| | |
|----|---------------------|
| 1. | Coastal Carolina |
| 2. | Gardner-Webb |
| 3. | Charleston Southern |
| 4. | Liberty |
| 5. | VMI |

TOP PLAYERS

| | |
|----------|--|
| Offense | Collin Drafts , QB, Charleston Southern |
| Defense | Kelvin McIver , DE, Coastal Carolina |
| Newcomer | Stephen Sene , DB, Liberty |

GAMES TO WATCH

| | |
|----------|--|
| 09.10.05 | James Madison at Coastal Carolina |
| 09.17.05 | Coastal Carolina at Appalachian State |
| 10.15.05 | Gardner-Webb at Coastal Carolina |
| 11.19.05 | Coastal Carolina at Charleston So. |

Chants have chance to make some noise outside of the Big South

By Gary McCann
The (Rock Hill, S.C.) Herald

Coastal Carolina finished the 2004 season with a 10-1 record, its first Big South Conference title and a Top 25 ranking in three Division I-AA polls.

What coach David Bennett's Chanticleers didn't have was an at-large bid to the I-AA playoffs, because the league has only five football-playing members and doesn't get an automatic bid.

With 19 starters returning, including everyone from the league's best defensive unit, the Chanticleers could be the first league team to get that at-large spot. They at least will likely get some preseason Top 25 votes.

Coastal has a chance to turn some heads in the season's second game, playing host to defending I-AA champion James Madison.

"We are going to find out where we are nationally as a program real quick," Bennett says.

The Chants also face Appalachian State and MEAC co-champs S.C. State on the road and play host to Delaware State.

These are heady times for a school that wasn't even playing football three years ago. In Bennett's first season, the Chants went a surprising 6-5 and rolled through the league last year despite having just three seniors.

The Chants led the league in points per game (37.5), set a league record for points allowed (16.0) and had an unbelievable plus-22 edge in turnovers, coming up with an incredible 27 interceptions.

For the first time, they're the team to beat.

Coastal Carolina rewarded Bennett with a contract extension through 2010, and

the Chants could be on the verge of league dominance by doing things the old-fashioned way, with the running game and defense.

Patrick Hall (5-8, 185) led the league in rushing last year (1,107 yards, 13 TDs) and was the Big South Offensive Player of the Year. Aundres Perkins ran for 532 yards and 12 TDs, with the Chants logging 3,058 rushing yards as a team.

Tackles Antwon Trice (6-6, 300) and Brad Poston (6-5, 300) and guards Les Rice (6-4, 307) and Brian Kepple (603, 280) are all back.

Quarterback Tyler Thigpen threw for 1,008 yards and eight TDs last season, with almost half those yards going to Jerome Simpson (26 catches, 419 yards, 8 TDs). In the red zone, the Chants were lethal, scoring on 43 of 51 trips, including 35 TDs.

Defensively, Kelvin McIver (54 tackles for loss, 7 sacks), linebacker Maurice Simpkins (78 tackles, 5 sacks) and defensive back Quinton Teal (50 tackles, 6 interceptions) were all first-team all-league. McIver tied for the lead in sacks and Teal led the league in interceptions. Dewitt Myers and Greg Williamson each had four interceptions.

Gardner-Webb stumbled to 5-6 overall and 2-2 in the league last season with a team crippled by injuries. Coach Steve Patton's Bulldogs lost starters or key reserves for 180 combined quarters. Two-time Defensive Player of the Year Mario Williams went down for the year in the fifth game.

Against a brutal schedule featuring six games against teams ranked in the top 25 at some point, the Bulldogs gave up 30.5 points, 216.5 yards a game on the ground and were last in total defense.

Quarterback Nick Roberts (2,410 yards passing, 12 TDs) and receivers Kory Alston (42 catches, 769 yards, 8 TDs) and Vonzell Pittman (36 catches, 403 yards) are back. Watch 5-11, 218-pound RB Kelvin German, a transfer from Middle Tennessee who has speed, running a 4.41 in the 40.

Linebackers Keppy Baucom (90 tackles) and Brian Johnston (50), all-conference defensive lineman Brandon Schweitzer (69) and cornerback Rent Sherrill (68 tackles, 2 interceptions) all return.

A key newcomer is freshman punter/kicker Michael Hanna, who must replace third-team All-American Graham Whitlock, the best punter in school history.

After going 1-11 two years ago in coach Jay Mills' first year, **Charleston Southern** rebounded to a 5-5 mark a year ago, the first non-losing season in the 14-year history of the program. Mills returns 16 of 24 starters.

If Mills can find some offensive linemen, the Bucs should put up some points. First-team all-conference QB Collin Drafts, a 6-3, 190-pound junior, set single-season conference records for TD passes (21), yards (2,533), completions (212) and completion percentage (.623), in the process helping the Bucs lead the league in total offense.

He'll throw to first-team all-conference wide receiver Eddie Gadson (69 catches, 792 yards, 9 TDs) and second-team pick Maurice Price (27, 401, 2). They lead the best group of receivers in the league.

Tackle Troy James (6-6, 290) and guard Rick Howell (6-2, 290) started as freshmen and must carry the load in an inexperienced line.

Keep an eye on running back Andre Copeland, a transfer from South Florida, who could become the team's top ball carrier.

Nine starters return on defense, led by 6-1, 241-pound defensive lineman Adam DeGraffenreid (38 tackles, 6 sacks), linebacker Jada Ross (68 tackles) and defensive back Tavares Shorter (40 tackles, 3 interceptions), all of which were second-team all-league picks.

After **Liberty's** second straight six-win season (6-5), coach Ken Karcher got a five-year contract extension through 2009. It was the Flames' first winning season since 1997.

Karcher returns 14 starters, but has a big question at quarterback. Junior-college transfer Brock Farrel (609 yards, 6 TDs) started the last four games (all wins) and should have the edge over sophomore Travis Johnson.

The Flames must find a way to replace running backs Sam Gado (901 yards) and Dre Barnes (758) and All-BSC linemen Sean Boyle and Thomas Smith.

A key newcomer is 6-6, 320-pound offensive lineman Stephen Sene, who started his career at the University of South Carolina and played eight games as a freshman there before transferring to Dodge City (Kan.) Community College.

Six starters return on a defense that allowed 25 points a game, led by linebacker Manny Rojas (89 tackles) and free safety C.J. Moore (85). The Flames were last in the league in pass defense (217.6 yards per game).

After a 6-6 season in 2003, **VMI** went 0-11 last year, giving up 34 or more points five times.

The Keydets have 22 of 24 starters back, including running back Sean Mizner (729 rushing yards, 4 TDs), quarterback Keith Monteleone (808 passing yards, 5 TDs), first-team All-BSC wide receiver Zohn Burden (57 catches, 595 yards, 5 TDs) and every starter on the offensive line.

That should help the Keydets average more than the league-low 12.5 points of a year ago. VMI ran for slightly more than 100 yards a game and averaged 264 yards on offense.

Defensively, Robert Mason led the league in tackles (120). When a free safety leads the league, that's not a good sign. Improving linebackers Justin Huggard (97 tackles) and Todd Baldwin (95) should help.

Look for Salukis to again hold key to Gateway, but can they break through in the postseason?

By Randy Reinhardt

The (Bloomington, Ill.) Daily Pantagraph

The past two regular seasons have been sheer bliss for formerly downtrodden Southern Illinois.

The playoff experiences that followed, however, were short and not at all sweet.

Reigning Division I-AA National Coach of the Year Jerry Kill has lifted the Salukis from the depths of the Gateway Conference and a 5-18 record his first two years in Carbondale to the heights of two conference championships and consecutive 10-1 regular seasons.

The sting of first-round playoff losses to Delaware in 2003 and Eastern Washington in 2004 should serve as potent inspiration for another talented SIU squad.

Seeking its fifth straight playoff appearance, Western Kentucky should battle the Salukis for Gateway supremacy, as could Northern Iowa.

Southern Illinois' cerebral and celebrated quarterback Joel Sambursky returns as the league's Offensive Player of the Year from a team that averaged 42.6 points in 2004. The 6-foot Sambursky will look for protection from a retooled line, but will get plenty of help moving the football from running backs Arkee Whitlock and Craig Turner and wide receiver Brent Little.

Eight starters are back from a stout defense that surrendered a league-best 13.2 points per game. The Salukis feature returning All-Gateway first-team members in space-eating lineman Linton Brown and linebacker Royal Whitaker. Jamarquis Jordan and Frank Johnson anchor a solid secondary.

Western Kentucky also boasts a seasoned quarterback in junior Justin Haddix, who enters his third year as a starter. Haddix passed for 1,976 yards and tailback Lerron Moore added 978 on the ground in 2004. The pair gives coach David Elson the promise of another balanced attack. Ohio transfer receiver Chris Jackson should be a nice complement to standout Maurice Perkins.

The Hilltoppers' typically rugged 3-4 defense lost three of its starting linebackers to graduation, and will rely on lone returnee Brandon Smith. The entire defensive front is back, and cornerbacks Dennis Mitchell and Antonio Thomas are secondary standouts.

Northern Iowa won its final six games of the 2004 season, but a 1-4 start kept the Panthers from being rewarded with a playoff berth. Then-freshman Eric Sanders fared well at quarterback in taking over for injured veteran Tom Petrie.

Dynamic tailback Terrance Freeney ran for 1,100 yards last season and Nebraska transfer David Horne gives opponents more reason for rushing concern. Wide receiver depth behind Justin Surrency must be developed.

The Panthers welcome back their leading tackler in linebacker Brett Koebcke and feature one of the Gateway's best coverage men in cornerback Dre Dokes. Outside linebacker and safety are areas of concern.

Western Illinois' 4-7 record last fall was the Leathernecks' first losing season since 1995. Western could return quickly to its winning ways behind tailback Travis Glasford, who paced the Gateway with 108.0 yards rushing per game (1,080 total) and is on pace to break the school career record.

Quarterback Steve LaFalce tossed 12 touchdowns and 11 interceptions in his first season as starter and will look to veteran linemen Chad Walker and Perry Cox for protection.

Newcomers, notably defensive back Frankie Oliver, should have a large impact on a defense that welcomes back just four starters. The secondary also will benefit from the return of Chris McNutt, who had 15 tackles against Nebraska early on before suffering a season-ending injury. Linebacker Wyatt Green returns after finishing second in the Gateway for total tackles (107).

Illinois State is unlikely to approach the Gateway-high 409 passes thrown last season. But the Redbirds should have a potent offense if a capable replacement for graduated quarterback Yance Vaughan is unearthed.

A tailback trio of Brian Thompson, Michigan transfer Pierre Rembert and Rafael Rice holds considerable potential, while standout linemen Stafford Davis and Mike Stegeman return and Laurént Robinson and Kevett Mickle headline a strong receiving corps.

Much to the relief to the rest of the conference, three-time Gateway Defensive Player of the Year and tackling machine Boomer Grigsby has exhausted his eligibility. Successor Cameron Siskowic is key to a defense switching from a 4-4 to a 4-3 alignment.

Get the nametags ready. **Southwest Missouri State**, which officially becomes simply Missouri State on Aug. 28, has 23 newcomers joining the team in August. And there are plenty of positions to fill, with just four starters back on offense and five on defense.

| | |
|----|------------------------|
| 1. | Southern Illinois |
| 2. | Western Kentucky |
| 3. | Northern Iowa |
| 4. | Western Illinois |
| 5. | Illinois State |
| 6. | Southwest Missouri St. |
| 7. | Indiana State |
| 8. | Youngstown State |

TOP PLAYERS

| | |
|----------|---------------------------------------|
| Offense | Joel Sambursky, QB, Southern Illinois |
| Defense | Antonio Thomas, DB, Western Kentucky |
| Newcomer | Cornell Johnson, RB, Indiana State |

GAMES TO WATCH

| | |
|----------|---------------------------------------|
| 10.08.05 | Southern Illinois at Western Illinois |
| 10.29.05 | Southern Illinois at Western Kentucky |
| 11.05.05 | Northern Iowa at Western Kentucky |
| 11.12.05 | Southern Illinois at Northern Iowa |

The Bears must find new running backs to complement returning quarterback A.J. Porter. Cornerback Darren Barnett intercepted seven passes in 2004 and all three linebackers are back.

All-America placekicker Jon Scifres was perfect on 15 field goal attempts last season.

Indiana State welcomes the only new coach to the Gateway in 2005, Lou West, who is looking to install a three-receiver, one-back offense for a better aerial attack. A new 4-2 defense hopes to take advantage of the team's speed in the secondary.

Quarterback Phillip Johnson excelled as a starter with 1,946 yards passing last season, the third-most in school history. He will be challenged by Western Michigan transfer Blayne Baggett. The Sycamores have a standout receiver in Sam Logan and need a tailback to emerge. Highly touted juco transfer Cornell Johnson is the prime candidate.

Seven starters return on defense, including first-team All-Gateway end Kyle Mitchell and 100-plus tackle linebackers Orlando "Doc" Gooden and LaDrell Bryant. Placekicker Kyle Hooper booted two game-winning field goals in overtime last season while converting 16 of 20 attempts.

Youngstown State is coming off two straight losing seasons for the first time since 1985-86. And it's clear the Penguins need the most improvement on defense, where a traditionally stingy unit has shown slippage the past two seasons.

Linebackers James Terry and Jeremiah Wright and cornerback Jason Perry will be counted on to spearhead a defensive turnaround, while line transfers Greg Jacobs (Vanderbilt) and Mychal Savage (junior college) should assist.

Quarterback Tom Zetts completed 60.4 percent of his passes last season and will continue to look for receiver Kyle Smith. Tailbacks Monquante Gibson and Josh Cayson are a formidable tandem.



| | |
|----|--------------------|
| 1. | Cal Poly |
| 2. | North Dakota State |
| 3. | UC Davis |
| 4. | Southern Utah |
| 5. | South Dakota State |
| 6. | Northern Colorado |

OP PLAYERS

| | |
|----------|--------------------------------------|
| Offense | Kyle Steffes, RB, North Dakota State |
| Defense | Chris Gocong, DE, Cal Poly |
| Newcomer | Brandon Rice, WR, UC Davis |

JAMES TO WATCH

| | |
|---------|--|
| 1.08.05 | North Dakota State at Cal Poly |
| 1.15.05 | South Dakota State at North Dakota State |
| 1.28.05 | Cal Poly at UC Davis |

All dressed up with no place to go?

Cal Poly worthy of invite to NCAA playoff dance

By Matt McKenzie
Street & Smith's Staff Writer

Usually, a 9-2 record is cause for celebration, especially if the team is in Division-II-AA, where a playoff system decides the champion.

But the Cal Poly Mustangs found themselves on the outside looking in during last year's playoffs, even after winning the inaugural football crown of the Great West Conference. Since the Great West is a new league, there is no automatic bid to the 16-team I-AA playoffs. And even though four I-AA teams that had three losses made the postseason, Mustangs coach Rich Ellerson isn't one to be bitter.

"We can't allow it to detract from our accomplishments," Ellerson says of not making the playoffs. "It was painful in that we didn't necessarily see it coming. We had a group that enjoyed the journey and were looking forward to playing again."

"I think our guys know that [our record] was really good, but we've got to get better. So it's not an open wound or anything like that—just a little bit more spice, if you will."

The Mustangs relied on strong defense last season, holding five opponents to 14 points or less. Despite the loss of Buck Buchanan Award (given to the nation's top I-AA linebacker) recipient Jordan Beck, Cal Poly will again be tough to score on. Senior defensive end Chris Gocong led the nation in sacks with 17.5, while junior Ken Chicoine mans the secondary.

On the other side of the ball, senior QB Anthony Garnett has solidified his spot as the No. 1 QB after starting the final seven games last season.

This will be the first season of round-robin play in the Great West, a conference that may be dissolved just as soon as it was created. Northern Colorado will join the Big Sky next year, and there are rumors of other Great West schools following suit in the future.

For now, though, Cal Poly looks to again be the cream of this new crop, if their

defense holds up to last season's level. If not, UC Davis and North Dakota State will challenge for the title. But as last year shows, anything short of a perfect record might just get you a trophy, a pat on the back and nothing else when it comes to the postseason.

What else can we do? That had to be the question **Cal Poly** players asked themselves after a 9-2 season in which they were shut out of the playoffs. The Mustangs have enjoyed three winning seasons in the last four years and are poised for another. Quarterback Anthony Garnett will have the full support of coach Rich Ellerson this year after coming in as the starter midway through last season and finishing with 1,711 passing yards and 14 touchdowns.

"He really wants to be a rallying point," Ellerson says of Garnett. "His challenge is to play within himself. He needs to be an operator and let things happen. He's not the Lone Ranger. There's some really gifted people playing around him, so he doesn't have to go out there and carry the day."

Two of those gifted players will be Garnett's top receivers, Jonah Russell and Anthony Randolph, who combined for 996 yards and eight TDs last season.

Defensively, the Mustangs will miss the services of the nation's top I-AA defender in linebacker Jordan Beck. However, good news awaits in the form of defensive end Chris Gocong, who was second to Beck last year in the Buchanan voting and is coming off a mammoth season of 17.5 sacks and 21.5 tackles for loss. Free safety Kenny Chicoine also returns, as the junior had a conference-leading seven interceptions last season to go with 74 tackles.

Defense is what helped **North Dakota State** to an 8-3 record in 2004. The Bison led the conference in scoring defense (13.6 points per game), total defense (285.0 yards a game) and turnover margin (plus-13). Unfortunately, all three losses came in the league, including a 15-13 upset by last-place Northern Colorado.

The Bison will have to improve on their passing game, and it starts with sophomore Steve Walker, who led the team to its final three wins last year. Running back Kyle Steffes (1,055 yards, 13 TDs) enjoyed an all-conference season last year, but will be without the help of two top linemen, All-America center Rob Hunt and all-conference pick Nick Zilka.

Sophomore Craig Dahl anchors a strong secondary that allowed just five passing TDs and had 17 interceptions in 2004.

UC Davis led the league in scoring offense last year, averaging 32.3 points a game. That could change this season, as the Aggies have one of the tougher schedules in Division I-AA. Along with playing Great West favorites Cal Poly and North Dakota State, UC Davis also has contests against I-AA powerhouses New Hampshire and Eastern Washington,

not to mention a date at Stanford in its third game of the season.

All-conference QB Jon Grant is back after throwing for 2,512 yards and 17 TDs in 2004. However, the Aggies must get better production from their rushing game after averaging just 114.4 yards a game last year, the second-lowest figure in the league. Pila Fatukala led the team in sacks in '04 with five and will be key on the defensive line this season, along with linebacker Dan Elbanna, who had a team-leading 84 tackles.

The departure of **Southern Utah** QB Casey Rehrer means this could be a rebuilding year. Not only was Rehrer the league leader in passing average (258.7 yards a game), he also ranked sixth overall in rushing average (53.9). Either junior Zac Connors or sophomore Wes Marshall will likely fill the open position. The two were battling it out for the job in the spring. Receiver Jerome Eason (806 yards, 7 TDs) is back, as is senior Ryan Felipe, who scored by rushing, receiving and returning a punt last year.

Thunderbirds coach Wes Meier has shifted strong safety Steve Smith up the field to replace All-America linebacker Nick DiPadova. The entire defensive backfield returns, including all-conference second-team pick Brandon Perkins.

The first season of I-AA football for **South Dakota State** impressed many, as the Jackrabbits were a respectable 6-5, including a road win over Southern, which finished the season ranked 20th. South Dakota State went old-school for much of the season, playing the ball-control game and averaging 31:04 on offense a contest. Much of that had to do with handing the ball off to junior Anthony Watson, who led the Great West in rushing with 1,088 yards.

Watson will likely shoulder the early offensive load as the Jackrabbits break in a new quarterback to replace Brad Nelson (2,225 yards, 20 TDs). Three QBs were vying for the spot in spring practice. Receiver Josh Davis (619 yards, 5 TDs) already has the school record for career receptions with 176. Eight starters return on defense.

The services of WR Vincent Jackson have left **Northern Colorado** for the NFL, and with him goes a lot of the Bears' offense. Jackson was sixth among I-AA receivers in yards (1,382) last year and scored 11 TDs. His offensive production isn't going to be replaced by any one player returning—especially since the only experienced receiver back (Cory Sleeth) totaled just 172 yards last season.

Jackson also had the ability to make QB Tony Christensen look good—but opposing defenses feasted on him at other times. The junior has 32 interceptions in the last two years—including 19 last season—against 26 TDs. He'll need to cut down dramatically on the picks for the Aggies to have any shot at improving on their 2-9 mark from '04.

Behind arm of McDermott and legs of Mathews, Quakers look to capture fourth title in six years

By Chuck Newman
Street & Smith's Correspondent

It is starting to border on redundancy. Harvard or Penn. Ivy League champions five straight years. And six of the last eight years.

There may be no end in sight. Both figure to be contenders again this season.

As usual, there seems to be other preseason contenders. Or maybe just pretenders, as they have been in the past. Count Brown as a threat this season ... maybe Yale ... maybe even Cornell.

Harvard will be without quarterback Ryan Fitzpatrick, one of the league's all-time lethal weapons, and a seventh-round NFL draft pick to boot. But the Crimson returns running back Clifton Dawson, an All-America candidate who led the league in rushing.

Penn, despite key losses, returns quarterback Patrick McDermott and running back Sam Mathews, a sure all-league candidate.

The most interesting story could be Brown, which returns nine players whose names appeared on the All-Ivy first- or second-team list last year.

Penn, loser to only Harvard last season, must replace several key starters and other contributors from a senior class that had the highest winning percentage in school (.897) and league history (.929).

Major casualties include Penn's all-time leading wide receiver, Dan Castles, a first-team all-leaguer who had 70 catches last season; and offensive linemen Erik Curtis and Michael Pierce, who helped the team lead the league in passing offense and was second only to Harvard in total offense.

The losses are also tough on defense, where first-team All-Ivy cornerback Duvol Thompson, who played in the Hula Bowl, and fifth-year starter Kevin Stefanski have moved on.

But never count out a team coached by Al Bagnoli. The Quakers will not be without weapons, especially at quarterback where McDermott, who threw for 1,995 yards and 12 touchdowns while being intercepted a league-low five times in 294 attempts, will be back to lead what should be a highly productive and versatile offense.

The running game will be in the capable hands of Mathews, a second-team all-leaguer who gained 716 yards and averaged 4.0 yards a carry. Kyle Ambrogi and Duke transfer Von Bryant will back up Mathews.

On defense, Kory Gedin, a transfer from North Carolina who had 61 tackles (41 solo), will see more playing time.

If experience is going to dictate the eventual champion, **Brown** looks like the favorite with the return of nine

all-league players, especially first-team wideout Jarrett Schreck, running back Nick Hartigan and linebacker Zak DeOssie.

Schreck caught 62 passes for a league-high 1,035 yards in 2004, while Hartigan, a Walter Payton Award candidate, was second in the league in rushing with 126.3 yards a game while carrying the ball a league high 323 times. He also established school records with 102 points and 17 touchdowns.

DeOssie, as a sophomore, tied for third in the league in tackles with 98 and 3.5 sacks to help the Bruins to the second-best defense in the league. Another key returnee is second-team all-league lineman James Frazier, who led the league in tackles for loss (14).

Harvard likely won't repeat the overall statistical dominance of last season. Duplicating a perfect league and overall record, making no-contests of games against league contenders Penn and Yale and giving up a league-best 13.4 points a game would seem to be unrealistic.

There will be experience on defense but the offensive philosophy will surely change. Liam O'Hagan and Chris Pizzotti have the opportunity to succeed Fitzpatrick, who was impressive enough at the NFL Combine in March to earn his seventh-round selection by the St. Louis Rams.

The offensive focus likely shifts to the running game of Dawson, an All-American who led the league with 130.2 yards a game and may exceed his 24.8 carries a game until the passing game develops.

After becoming only the second team in Ivy history to go from being winless in league play (0-7) to having a winning record (4-3) the next season, **Cornell** could be a factor under second-year coach Jim Knowles. Or at least be a spoiler.

The Big Red's momentum should carry into this season since they return seven starters from a defense that ranked ninth nationally against the run in 2004, along with seven starters on offense.

The linchpin for the offense will be 6-5, 300-pound senior lineman Kevin Boothe, a unanimous first-team All-Ivy choice who is an All-America candidate and definite pro prospect. Another key to the offense is the return of wideout Brian Romney, a first-team all-league candidate who had 60 catches for 766 yards last season.

There are big questions for **Yale** to find a successor to quarterback Alvin Cowan, who led the league in passing yardage (2,140) and threw a league-high 16 touchdown passes.

A top candidate for the job appears to be Jeff Mroz, who took a leave of absence from the school last year but has 1,757 yards on his passing resume. Todd Feiereisen, who backed up Cowan last season, and sophomore Matt Polhemus are other possibilities.



| | |
|----|-----------|
| 1. | Penn |
| 2. | Brown |
| 3. | Harvard |
| 4. | Cornell |
| 5. | Yale |
| 6. | Princeton |
| 7. | Dartmouth |
| 8. | Columbia |

TOP PLAYERS

| | |
|----------|-----------------------------|
| Offense | Clifton Dawson, RB, Harvard |
| Defense | Justin Stull, LB, Princeton |
| Newcomer | Zach Copple, OL, Harvard |

GAMES TO WATCH

| | |
|----------|------------------|
| 09.24.05 | Brown at Harvard |
| 10.22.05 | Yale at Penn |
| 10.29.05 | Penn at Brown |
| 11.19.05 | Harvard at Yale |

A capable successor must also be found for tailback Robert Carr, who had 118.5 yards a game rushing last season while carrying the ball 252 times, second most in the league. David Knox, who missed all of last season with an injury, is the best candidate to take over after averaging 5.1 yards per carry as a sophomore.

Princeton won five games last season, a three-game improvement over 2003, but yet another year saw the Tigers as a non-factor in the Ivy race. They haven't been league champions in 10 years and that trend figures to continue this season.

The Tigers placed five players on the all-league first and second teams in 2004, and first-team linebacker Zak Keasey, who led the league in tackles, and second-team offensive lineman Jeremy Moore have graduated.

Linebacker should be the strength of the Tigers. Justin Stull, who ranked second in the league with 106 tackles, returns along with Abi Fadeyi and Alan Borelli at a position that could be as strong a unit as any in the league. Another key returnee is cornerback Jay McCareins, who played on both sides of the ball last season.

Dartmouth, which hasn't been a factor since winning the league title in 1996 and finishing second in 1997, is under new management in Buddy Teevens, who coached Big Green title teams in 1990 and 1991. Teevens returns after head-coaching stints at Tulane and Stanford.

The new coach will have some weapons on defense, especially in end Anthony Gargiulo, a first-team All-Ivy pick who led the league with 12 sacks and prompted double teams by offenses all season.

Third-year coach Bob Shoop will be facing the usual problems on both sides of the ball at **Columbia**, as the Lions try to improve on a one-win season.

The situation is exacerbated by the graduation of nearly the entire offensive line, including third-team All-America tight end Wade Fletcher, who led the league at his position in both catches and yards.

The loss of first-team all-league tackle Michael Quarshie won't help a defense that ranked last in points allowed for 2004.

| | |
|----|---------------|
| 1. | La Salle |
| 2. | Duquesne |
| 3. | Marist |
| 4. | Saint Peter's |
| 5. | Iona |

**TOP PLAYERS**

| | |
|----------|---------------------------------|
| Offense | John Zabel, WR, La Salle |
| Defense | Josh Antinopoulos, DT, Duquesne |
| Newcomer | Orestes Medina, DB, La Salle |

GAMES TO WATCH

| | |
|----------|---------------------------|
| 10.08.05 | La Salle at Marist |
| 10.15.05 | Saint Peter's at Duquesne |
| 10.29.05 | Marist at Saint Peter's |
| 11.05.05 | La Salle at Duquesne |

With a new coach and QB at Duquesne, title door may open up for the Explorers

By Steve Amedio
Schenectady (N.Y.) Gazette

Duquesne has won the last five Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference regular-season championships and returns 16 starters from the team that finished 4-0 in league play and 7-3 overall.

But, this season, there appears to be cracks in the gridiron armor. The usually dominant Dukes need to replace two key losses in four-year starting quarterback Niel Loebig and 12-year head coach (and seven-time MAAC Coach of the Year) Greg Gattuso, who moved on to become the recruiting coordinator and tight ends coach at Pitt.

It might be enough for someone else to take control of the MAAC. If any team can, it would be La Salle, which averaged 34 points per game against MAAC opponents last year including 35 in a shoot-out loss (56-35) to Duquesne last season.

The Explorers finished ranked 22nd in total offense among Division I-AA schools and led the MAAC in scoring, passing and total offense. And every key offensive player returns.

Expect more of the same from offensive-minded coach Phil Longo, who didn't join the program until March 2004, less than six months before the start of last season. His team should be considerably more adept at running the spread-shotgun set that utilizes four or five receivers.

The key for La Salle (3-7 overall, 1-3 MAAC) is how much better it can get defensively. It allowed 34 or more points in six of its 10 games last year. The team has a new defensive coordinator in Phil Petitte, and has nearly as many returnees as the offense.

Nebraska transfer Aaron Burbach will strengthen the offensive line and help protect sophomore quarterback Michael Jump, who threw for 459 yards in his first start a year ago and should be even better.

Jump will be handing the ball to either Steven Adelman or Josh Brumfield.

On the receiving end of Jump's passes will be John Zabel, probably the league's top split end. Also back are pass catchers Lou Russo and Greg Vacarro, each of whom has started every game since arriving at La Salle.

Having a year in Petitte's defensive system, Marshall transfer Chris Twardy will bolster the linebacking unit. They'll get plenty of defensive help from defensive end JJ Luney, who was an impact freshman last season.

La Salle's Nov. 5 contest at Duquesne is likely to decide this year's MAAC title. It figures to be another high-scoring affair, but the Explorers look capable of finally coming out on top.

But if Duquesne can find a replacement for Loebig, who became just the fifth player in I-AA history with more than 10,000 passing yards (10,254) and 100 touchdown passes (103), it might just shred La Salle's defense again.

That difficult task falls to new coach Jerry Schmitt, a former offensive coordinator for the Dukes who spent the last five seasons as head coach at Division III Westminster College.

During spring practice, junior Ben Palumbo and three redshirt freshmen were battling for the spot.

Whoever wins that battle will fit into an offense that returns a number of talented skill-position players, including three-time 2004 MAAC Rookie of the Week Bruce Hocker (35 catches, 577 yards) and junior Dan Spriggs (41, 428).

The Dukes' top two running backs, juniors James Jacobs (687 yards, 9 TDs) and Jeremy McCullough (683, 3), also return.

The offensive line includes three returning first-team All-MAAC players in seniors center Matt Bovich and tackles Josh Martin and Brad Salvatore.

The defense has nine starters back from a unit that ranked 14th nationally in total

defense. The key defensive returnees are a pair of two-time consensus I-AA Mid-Major All-Americans: 6-2, 265-pound senior defensive tackle Josh Antinopoulos and 6-1, 235-pound Harry Carter.

Marist (3-6, 3-1) was the MAAC's second-best team last year, played Duquesne tougher than any other league opponent (losing 7-3) and shouldn't fall off much with 18 returning starters.

Among the key returnees is the MAAC's Offensive Rookie of the Year, running back Obozua Ehikioya, who gained 686 yards last season, including 246 in a 41-35 victory at La Salle. Gone is quarterback James Luft, who threw for 944 yards and seven touchdowns last season, and his replacement will be inexperienced sophomore Michael Sangiorgi. The top returning receiver is senior Guy Smith, who had 31 receptions a year ago. The offensive line is anchored by first-team All-MAAC right guard Steve Van Soest.

Defensively the standout is Matt Grande, a defensive lineman who made 37 tackles last season.

Saint Peter's (3-7, 1-3) looks to be improved over a year ago, particularly with the return of senior tailback Sean Mayers, who rushed for a school-record 1,546 yards last season and was second nationally in I-AA with 154.6 yards per game. Those numbers helped him share honors for MAAC Offensive Player of the Year.

Offensive help to take some of the load off Mayers will come from sophomore QB Scott Bonnomo (48-of-112, 626 yards, 6 TDs), who started midway through the season, and an offensive line that returns four starters.

Defensively, team captain and lineman Walter Berbick and undersized 5-8, 190-pound linebacker Dave Dyson, who plays much bigger (87 tackles, 14 for losses), are the anchors.

Iona (2-8, 1-3) will likely battle the Peacocks to avoid the cellar, but it has some strong players, particularly on the offensive side, returning.

Senior quarterback Michael Biehl passed for 1,251 yards and 10 touchdowns last season, and has his top two receivers back, including senior Dennis Calacione, who is on pace to become the school's all-time leader in receiving yards.

Junior Rudy Arcara, a 5-11, 185-pound running back, gained 1,125 yards, second best in the conference last season and set a school single-game record with 313 yards in a win over La Salle.

Defensively, lineman Cedric Johnson, who finished second in the conference with nine sacks last season, should be a force. The defensive backfield is also strong with Alex LoGerfo, Franco Garcia and Brett Sohns, who also averaged 21.9 yards per kick return in 2004.



Monmouth looks to make it three straight, but look for Colonials to reclaim the top spot

By Steve Amedio
Schenectady (N.Y.) Gazette

Once-proud Robert Morris seems ready to reclaim superiority of the Northeast Conference after a four-year dry spell.

The Colonials, who ruled the league for the first five years of its existence (capturing the NEC title from 1996-2000), haven't exactly fallen on tough times, although a league record of 15-13 over the past four seasons isn't up to its earlier standards.

But last year looks like a solid launching pad for a return to past glory for the program whose stadium is named after its coach, Joe Walton.

Walton, the only coach in the program's history, previously played and coached in the NFL for 35 seasons, including a stint as head coach of the New York Jets.

Walton clearly knows a little about the sport and what to do with a talent-laden roster. He has one this season with 19 starters returning at **Robert Morris** (6-5 overall, 3-4 NEC). The Colonials weren't that far removed from title contention a year ago, as evidenced by a two-point loss to NEC champ Monmouth, and the returning experience should be enough to propel the program back into its former role as a conference power.

Defensively, the Colonials are solid, particularly at linebacker with the return of NEC Defensive Player-of-the-Year James Noel, whose 115 tackles set a school record and marked the third straight season he has had 100 or more tackles.

Junior Jeff Rommes, who'll move from strong safety to linebacker this season, is one of the hardest-hitting defenders in the league, while 6-2, 290-pound senior Jason Forrest, a first-team All-NEC selection last season, anchors the defensive line.

Offensively, senior quarterback Drew Geyer was strong a year ago, establishing single-season school records for attempts and completions (187-for-361) and passing yards (2,601).

He'll be protected by an offensive line that returns all five starters and has standout targets in all-conference tight end Rupert Rickards and flanker Tyjuan Massey, who set school records last year for receptions (43) and receiving yards (763).

Albany (4-7, 4-3) had as much talent as any team in the league a year ago and might again this year despite some key losses on the offensive line and at quarterback.

However, the offensive line returns some key (and big) players in 6-6, 285-pound second-team all-conference pick Jacob Anderson, 6-3, 310-pound Aaron Kimball, 6-3, 280-pound Sam Pagano and 6-1, 260-pound center Pierce Brennan. Tight end Eddie Unverzagt also has the size and agility

to be an all-conference candidate.

Talented redshirt freshmen Dan Bocanegra and Jason Boltz battled for the quarterback job in spring drills.

The defensive unit should benefit from the return of an experienced group that adjusted to playing a multiple scheme last season. Sophomore Colin Disch, a 6-1, 208-pound linebacker, was the NEC's Defensive Rookie of the Year. Both starting cornerbacks (Kamar Elliott and Ryan Chrobak, a second-team All-NEC pick) return.

Monmouth (10-1, 6-1) was the NEC's most dominant team last season, but no program was hit harder by graduation.

The Hawks had 11 players picked as either a first- or second-team All-NEC selections a year ago, and only have five of those returning.

But those five—wide receiver Miles Austin, punter Sean Dennis, offensive lineman John Castoro, linebacker Mike Castellano and defensive back Nick Castellano—provide a solid nucleus for the two-time defending champions.

Austin, a two-time All-NEC first team choice, posted the fifth-best receiving yardage total in NEC history last year (859 yards, 47 catches) while scoring nine touchdowns. Dennis averaged a league-best 40.1 yards per punt. Mike Castellano, a junior, had 13.5 tackles for loss (second in the NEC), while senior safety Nick Castellano had 81 tackles.

Central Connecticut State (8-2, 6-1) earned a share of last season's NEC title with the best season in the history of its program, but will be hard-pressed to duplicate that after losing four-year starting quarterback Scott Dolch and cornerback Chris Blackshear, the NEC's all-time leader in interceptions (19).

There is enough returning, though, to keep CCSU competitive, including the return of last year's NEC Offensive Player of the Year, junior running back Cory Harge, who rushed for 1,032 yards and scored 14 total touchdowns.

The Blue Devils also had the NEC's Rookie of the Year in wide receiver Andre Smith (32 catches, 556 yards).

Key defensive returnees are a pair of standout senior linebackers: Coree Tucker (89 tackles, 4 sacks, 3 interceptions) and Ryan Nichols (26, 4, 2).

Wagner (6-5, 3-4) was better than its record a year ago, losing two games in overtime and two others by eight or fewer points. A couple of breaks and the Seahawks could easily move into contention this season, particularly with seven starters back on offense and nine on defense.

Wagner's skill players are back on offense, including senior quarterback John Sciarrone (2,581 yards, 14 TDs), who set numerous school records last season and might be the

| | |
|----|---------------------|
| 1. | Robert Morris |
| 2. | Albany |
| 3. | Monmouth |
| 4. | Central Connecticut |
| 5. | Wagner |
| 6. | Sacred Heart |
| 7. | Stony Brook |
| 8. | St. Francis (Pa.) |

TOP PLAYERS

| | |
|----------|-------------------------------------|
| Offense | Cory Harge, RB, Central Connecticut |
| Defense | James Noel, LB, Robert Morris |
| Newcomer | Tyler Arciaga, QB, Sacred Heart |

GAMES TO WATCH

| | |
|----------|---------------------------|
| 10.08.05 | Wagner at Robert Morris |
| 10.22.05 | Robert Morris at Monmouth |
| 11.05.05 | Robert Morris at Albany |
| 11.12.05 | Albany at Monmouth |

league's top QB. His top targets also return. Junior wide receiver Chris Turner caught 61 passes last season, including a school-record 15 in one game, and senior Shaun Grover had 50 catches. Junior tailback Warren Barnett (845 yards, 9 TDs) provides a solid ground game.

Defensively, the top returnees are senior defensive back Tony Smith, who had six interceptions last season, and senior linebacker Craig Romano (126 tackles).

Sacred Heart (6-4, 3-4) should be solid again, particularly on offense where the NEC's top rusher last season, senior tailback Ed Pricolo (1,339 rushing yards, 14 TDs), returns. He'll get offensive help from returning junior QB Dan Ammel (1,538 passing yards, 15 TDs) and junior wide receiver Joey Henley, who led the team with 31 catches.

The offense could also get a lift from quarterback Tyler Arciaga of Bonita, Calif., who graduated from UNLV in three years and is enrolled in graduate school. He has two years of eligibility remaining and is expected to play a role this season.

Defensively, the top returnee is junior linebacker Jon Corto (74 tackles).

Stony Brook (3-7, 2-5) opened up strong, handing Monmouth its only league loss last season, and then faded. But only two of its losses were by more than 10 points.

The team's top offensive player is mammoth junior left guard Leo Sullivan (6-3, 300 pounds). Tailback Rod Williams also returns.

The Seahawks suffered extensive losses on their defensive front, but have some solid returnees in linebackers Chris Tomasky and Mike Mounter, and defensive backs Kameron Sterling, Ray Goodson, Frank Rivera and Justin Hubbard.

St. Francis (3-8, 1-6) ended last season on a six-game losing streak, but three of those losses were by a touchdown or less. Offensively, junior wide receiver Luke Palko (brother of Pittsburgh QB Tyler Palko) ranked fourth nationally in I-AA with 7.5 catches per game and had 82 receptions on the year. Junior QB Anthony Doria delivered most of those throws, connecting on 190 of 364 passes (2,115 yards).

PREDICTIONS



TOP PLAYERS

| | |
|-----------------|--|
| Offense | Vincent Webb , RB, Eastern Illinois |
| Defense | Yusuf Sharif , DE, Tennessee Tech |
| Newcomer | Justin Midgett , QB, Eastern Illinois |

GAMES TO WATCH

| | |
|----------|---|
| 08.01.05 | Furman at Jacksonville State |
| 10.01.05 | Eastern Kentucky at Jacksonville St. |
| 11.05.05 | Eastern Kentucky at Murray State |
| 11.18.05 | Eastern Illinois at Jacksonville State |

Jacksonville State looks for OVC three-peat in '05

By Michael Grant

The (Louisville) Courier-Journal

Last season's race for the Ohio Valley Conference was close, but Jacksonville State fended off challenges from Eastern Kentucky and Murray State, which finished one game behind. This year could be more of the same as Jacksonville State seeks to stay on top.

Since joining the league in 2003, **Jacksonville State** (9-2 overall, 7-1 OVC) has dominated the Ohio Valley, winning consecutive league championships outright. The Gamecocks became the first team to turn that trick since Tennessee State (1998-99). The last team to win three straight outright championships was Eastern Kentucky, which had a string of four from 1981 to 1984.

Can Jacksonville State get that kind of three-peat? Recent history says it has a good chance. It has gone 14-2 in OVC play, with losses at Murray State (23-17 in overtime) in 2003 and at Tennessee Tech (16-13) last year. The Gamecocks lose All-America tailback Oscar Bonds and center John Pettus, but there's no reason to believe that there will be a slip in the team's overall performance.

The defense should be strong again with senior linebacker Lamarcus Rowell (57 tackles, 5 sacks), junior safety Kenny Brown, senior safety Haneef Haqq (56 tackles) and senior linebacker Leroy Clark (47).

Jacksonville State surrendered the fewest TDs (29) and second-fewest points per game (21.2) in the OVC last year.

Offensively, senior quarterback Maurice Mullins might be asked to do more with Bonds gone. Mullins led the league in passing efficiency (147.7).

Quarterback instability prevented **Eastern Kentucky** (6-5, 6-2) from having the 2004 season most expected, as the Colonels were the preseason pick to win the league. A chronic sore throwing shoulder kept Matt Guice



OHIO VALLEY

out for a large part of the season. Eastern rebounded from a poor start to finish one game out of first place and notch its 27th consecutive winning season.

Eastern's success this season might hinge on the growth of sophomore quarterback Josh Greco. Forced into action a little quicker than coach Danny Hope would have liked, Greco had a rough first season. He threw only four touchdowns to 10 interceptions.

Seven of those interceptions came in a loss to Western Kentucky.

Hope says Greco is delivering the ball with more confidence. He certainly should have plenty of weapons to work with. Senior wide receiver Andre Ralston's numbers (36 catches, 611 yards, 5 TDs) suffered a bit because of the quarterback problems. He has the potential to be one of the finest I-AA receivers in the country.

They like to jest in the athletic department that **Murray State** (7-4, 6-2) uses a six-legged tailback. No, coach Joe Pannunzio doesn't have a mythological beast on scholarship. He does have a deep stable of runners.

Murray unleashed its vaunted trio of Chad "Tank" Cook, Ron Lane and Nick Turner last season with tremendous results. All three finished among the top 10 in the league in rushing yards. Cook (834 yards, 11 TDs) is a strong inside runner. Lane (746, 7) is a gifted runner and receiver with speed. Turner (746, 7), a transfer from Mississippi State, has a good combination of strength and agility. The group helped make the Racers the second-best rushing team in the OVC (219.4 yards per game).

Pannunzio would like to be a little less one-dimensional. Murray had the fewest TD passes (8) in the league and the second-fewest passing yards per game (167.7). Quarterback Adam Fisher, who threw for 1,485 yards and seven touchdowns in 2004, is back, but will have competition from newcomer Ken Topps.

Looking for a team that could surprise? It might be **Eastern Illinois** (5-6, 4-4). The Panthers brought in Florida transfer Justin Midgett to juice up the offense at quarterback. Midgett will have to overcome missing a good portion of spring football due to academic issues. He also hasn't played the past two seasons at Florida. The 6-foot-3, 199-pounder has the pedigree for success, having come from one of the premier I-A programs.

If Midgett isn't ready, Mike Donato will try to fill the shoes left by departed starter Matt Schabert. The Panthers have nine starters back on offense. Junior tailback Vincent Webb (1,106 yards, 12 touchdowns) is the second-leading rusher among OVC returnees. He will share carries with Ademola Adeniji (545 yards).

Junior wide receiver Ryan Voss (46 catches, 784 yards, 7 TDs) is the leading returning receiver in terms of yards. Eastern Illinois finished second in points per game

last season (26.5). So if the team can find a quarterback, it should be potent again.

Tennessee Tech (6-5, 3-4) has good skill-position personnel, especially at wide receiver with sophomore Larry Shipp (41 catches, 441 yards) and junior Brent McNeal (42 catches, 565 yards, 8 TDs). But who will throw the ball to them with three-year starter Robert Craft gone? Four returnees and two walk-ons will be on hand to vie for the quarterback job. Returning from last year are sophomore Steven Britton, junior Joey Bailey and redshirt freshmen John Conrad McCrary and Matthew Solima.

Defensively, senior defensive end Yusuf Sharif can wreak havoc. Last year, he finished with 13 tackles for loss and 4.5 sacks. Sharif also racked up 55 tackles and two forced fumbles.

After finishing in the bottom third in OVC rushing (129.5 yards per game), **Samford** (4-7, 3-5) will try to get a little more out of its running game. Quarterback Ray Nelson (2,830 passing yards, 16 passing TDs, 799 rushing yards, 12 rushing TDs) is gone. But junior Justin Ray is moving from defensive back to tailback. During a spring scrimmage, Ray rushed 12 times for 122 yards and two touchdowns, with one being a 60-yarder. Coach Bill Gray says that Ray is still learning the position and trying to become a more instinctive runner.

The secondary was a weakness last year as **Southeast Missouri** (3-8, 3-5) gave up a league-worst 2,733 passing yards and 19 touchdown passes. With better health in the defensive backfield, the Redhawks are hoping to improve there. Senior defensive backs Mike Miller and Marco Tipton both missed last year with leg injuries. The Redhawks also added former Oklahoma defensive assistant Joe Dan Rogers to coach the secondary.

James Webster Jr. was named **Tennessee State's** new coach in January. He had served the past four seasons at his alma mater, North Carolina, as assistant head coach and special-teams coordinator. Webster will be trying to bring the Tigers (4-7, 2-5) back to the days when they won consecutive OVC titles (1998-99). Tennessee State won't have Charles Anthony (1,739 yards, 14 TDs), the league's Offensive Player of the Year in 2004 and the school's second all-time leading rusher. It will have quarterback Bryson Rosser (1,219 passing yards, 10 TDs, 6 INTs).

As expected, coach Matt Griffin's first season at **Tennessee-Martin** (2-9, 1-7) was rough. The team got its only league victory at home over Eastern Illinois, 32-14. Then it proceeded to drop three straight, falling to Southeast Missouri, Eastern Kentucky and Murray State by a combined score of 114-21.

The Skyhawks do have some building blocks. Donald Chapman finished fourth in the league in rushing as a freshman with 1,084 yards and seven TDs. Junior wideout Taurean Stephens had 67 catches last year.



Rising from the ashes, Leopards try to repeat—but archrival Lehigh will have its say come November

By Ed Laubach
Easton (Pa.) Express-Times

Given up for dead in 1999—when Lafayette College discussed dropping football or possibly moving its athletics to Division III—the Leopards came full circle last fall. Coach Frank Tavani was the architect of Lafayette's first Patriot League championship since 1994 and its first trip to the I-AA playoffs. The Leopards went 8-4 while playing seven games on the road and never losing on back-to-back weeks. Lafayette clinched the title in the final regular-season game by defeating archrival Lehigh, which also went to the playoffs for the second time in coach Pete Lembo's four seasons.

Lafayette's five-year transition from the ashes—and coming on the heels of a 5-6, sixth-place finish in 2003—underscored the growing parity in an academics-first league.

"This league is very close, and we're as close as anybody," says Georgetown coach Bob Benson, whose Hoyas went 3-8 and finished last in the league. "Lafayette doesn't worry me. We beat 'em last year (2003) and came close this year (2004). Lehigh is the team to beat. Don't let anybody fool you."

Lafayette got it done through pure grit and a small group of seniors that had seen it all, beginning with a 2-8 finish as freshmen. The Leopards were the least-penalized team in the country and remained relatively free of injuries. Tavani has a large group back and enough depth to repeat.

The champion probably will be crowned around dusk Nov. 19 in Bethlehem, Pa., where Lafayette and Lehigh meet for the 141st time.

Lehigh, which has won eight or more games in the last seven years while winning or sharing five Patriot League championships, should be at or near the top again after leading the league in most of the important statistical categories. The Mountain Hawks went on an eight-game winning streak after a Week Two loss to Villanova and advanced to the I-AA playoffs as the league's No. 2 team. Six second-team all-league players are the rallying points—quarterback Mark Borda, running back Eric Rath, wide receiver Gerran Walker and guard Adam Selmasska on offense, and cornerback Andrew Nelson and safety Kaloma Cardwell on defense.

Borda is the league's top returning offensive player, having thrown for 2,682 yards, 24 touchdowns and only six interceptions last year. Rath rushed for 993 yards and 5-foot-5 Marques Thompson is a nice changeup who added 463 yards and was second on the team in TD receptions (6). Coach Lembo will get another season from linebacker Anthony Graziani, a fifth-year senior who led the Mountain Hawks with 111 tackles in 2004.

Lafayette should not miss a beat with quarterback Brad Maurer and the entire receiving corps back. The Leopards also have a set of all-league linebackers in Maurice Bennett and Blake Costanzo, who combined for 212 tackles and 9.5 sacks last season. Bennett, patrolling the middle, also had more than 100 tackles in 2003.

Maurer kept defenses guessing the whole season by throwing for 1,313 yards, rushing for 643 and scoring 15 touchdowns.

Brandon Stanford led Lafayette's receivers with 33 catches and was the league's No. 2 punt returner. The receiving corps welcomes the return of Archie Fisher, whose hamstring injury kept him out of all but two games. Seven of his 22 career catches have gone for touchdowns. The Leopards graduated 4,474-yard career rusher Joe McCourt but replace him with Jonathan Hurt, who got four starts last fall. Offensive tackle Drew Buettner returns to shore up the line. Another player to watch is defensive end Marvin Snipes, who had six sacks and 12.5 tackles for loss last season.

The marquee names (Chris Brown, Jamaal Branch and Luke Graham) of the 2003 **Colgate** team that advanced to the Division I-AA Championship Game may be gone, but coach Dick Biddle fully expects to be playing for another postseason berth. The Raiders, experienced on both lines, will ride a defensive unit that led the league in total defense for the second year in a row. Linebacker Jared Nepa and strong safety Geoff Bean were second-team all-league players. Bean had a breakout sophomore year with 80 tackles and six interceptions.

Mark Mushel, a 307-pound left tackle, is the veteran on an offensive line that allowed the fewest sacks (15) in the league. Quarterback is anybody's guess. Lee Sloan appeared in four games. A name to watch is Alex Relph, freshman son of Bob Relph, Colgate's starting quarterback for the 1976-77 squads that went a combined 18-3.

Bucknell coach Tim Landis hopes his team is the one to emerge from the pack like Lafayette did last year. Defensive end Sean Conover, middle linebacker Dorian Petersen and athletic cornerback Dante Ross lead a stellar defense that Landis hopes can stabilize the Bison until sophomore quarterbacks Terrance Wilson and Ryan Ahern get a few varsity snaps. Conover, a converted tight end, was the league's Defensive Player of the Year after collecting 10.5 sacks and finishing third in the country in forced fumbles (0.45 per game). Ross, the Patriot League's Special Teams Player of the Year in 2004, is an outstanding cover corner who led the league in punt and kickoff returns.

The Bison have questions in their spread-option offense, not the least of which is

| | |
|----|------------|
| 1. | Lehigh |
| 2. | Lafayette |
| 3. | Colgate |
| 4. | Bucknell |
| 5. | Holy Cross |
| 6. | Fordham |
| 7. | Georgetown |

TOP PLAYERS

| | |
|----------|--------------------------------|
| Offense | Mark Borda, QB, Lehigh |
| Defense | Maurice Bennett, LB, Lafayette |
| Newcomer | Kimbrick Baker, WR, Fordham |

GAMES TO WATCH

| | |
|----------|----------------------|
| 10.22.05 | Lehigh at Bucknell |
| 10.29.05 | Lehigh at Colgate |
| 11.05.05 | Colgate at Lafayette |
| 11.19.05 | Lafayette at Lehigh |

quarterback, where everyone is untested. Fullback Blamah Sarnor rushed for 928 yards as a sophomore and looked to have a stellar junior season, but missed the last eight games with a broken kneecap.

Holy Cross has quarterback John O'Neil, tailbacks Steve Silva and Gideon Akande and other weapons to put up points, but will the Crusaders be able to improve on last year's dismal defensive performance? They again ranked last in total defense while allowing more than 33 points a game. Silva led the team in both rushing yards (708) and receptions (60 for 507 yards), becoming the first at his school since Gordie Lockbaum in 1986 to lead the team in both categories. He also led the league in all-purpose yards for a 3-8 club. O'Neil passed for 2,022 yards and 18 touchdowns in a new system under first-year coach Tom Gilmore after throwing for 2,573 as a sophomore.

Coach Ed Foley of **Fordham** checked off seven areas where his team was lacking last year—all stemming from inexperience. The Rams lost five of their last six games after getting off to a 4-1 start. Of greatest concern, Foley says, is that the Rams were last in rushing. In the passing game, however, quarterback Derric Daniels set Fordham records for a first-year player—1,876 passing yards for 23 touchdowns.

Micah Clukey was a first-team all-league placekicker—10-of-12 with a long of 44 yards. Tight end James Caffarello and punter Anthony DiFino were second-team selections. The Rams have holes to fill on defense after losing five starters. Jay Edwards is a returning starter at end and Reshard Hicks, Greg Whelan and Tommie Stephens are veterans in the secondary.

Georgetown coach Benson sees only progress—and the start of construction on a \$32 million stadium that will open in 2006—after a 3-8 season in which the Hoyas went winless in six league games. The third-best team in total defense returns nine starters, including the league's best set of ends in Michael Ononibaku and Alex Buzbee.

NORTH

1. Drake
2. Dayton
3. San Diego
4. Valparaiso
5. Butler

SOUTH

1. Morehead State
2. Austin Peay State
3. Jacksonville
4. Davidson

TOP PLAYERS

| | |
|----------|--|
| Offense | Scott Phaydavong , RB, Drake |
| Defense | Kwesi Williams , DB, Morehead State |
| Newcomer | Brian Clarke , WR, San Diego |

GAMES TO WATCH

| | |
|----------|--|
| 10.08.05 | Dayton at Drake |
| 10.15.05 | Austin Peay State at Morehead State |
| 10.22.05 | Drake at San Diego |

Don't expect any title pioneering; Drake, Dayton still cream of PFL crop

By Matt McKenzie

Street and Smith's Staff Writer

In the Pioneer Football League, "D" stands for "domination," which is exactly what Drake and Dayton have done in this circuit since its inception.

In 12 of the football-only conference's 13 years, either the Flyers or Bulldogs have won at least a share of the regular-season crown or were champions of the conference title game, which began in 2001. Valparaiso won the Pioneer League Championship Game in 2003, but order was restored last season when Drake won its first PFL title showdown, 20-17 over Morehead State.

"We've competed against Dayton for 16 years, even when we weren't in the same conference," Drake coach Rob Ash says. "It's a great rivalry and the way we compete against each other has raised our respective levels. They're always a good standard to judge by and it's gratifying to know we're on pretty equal footing."

The two squads will again be battling it out in the North Division, along with up-and-coming San Diego, coached by former NFL quarterback Jim Harbaugh. Those three teams play one another three consecutive weeks in October, and the one that emerges with the least amount of damage will likely have the inside track to the PFL title game and, ultimately, the championship. In the South, look for youthful Austin Peay State to bring a strong challenge to Morehead State, but the Eagles will prevail and take the division for the fourth straight year.

This league will see a change in 2006, as this is Austin Peay's final year in the PFL. Beginning next year, the Governors will take up residence in the Ohio Valley Conference.

NORTH DIVISION

The **Drake** Bulldogs return two key components of last year's championship team, beginning with sophomore running back Scott Phaydavong, who finished sixth

last year among all I-AA rushers with 1,539 yards. Phaydavong was also selected to the I-AA All-America Team. At quarterback, Drake welcomes back third-year starter Connor Jostes, who had his second straight season of throwing for 2,000 yards or more. He also added 19 touchdowns.

Drake's defense returns eight starters and is a unit Ash thinks can be just as good as last year's squad that ranked second in the PFL in both points allowed per game (16.7) and total defense (298.8 yards per game).

Dayton's 7-3 record in 2004 marked the Flyers' 28th straight winning season, a streak matched only by Florida State. The Flyers return sophomore Kevin Hoyng, who threw for 504 yards and six TDs in 2004. Wideout Ryan Wrobleksi is also back after accounting for 934 yards and nine TDs last year.

Linebacker Jon Hoppe, an All-PFL pick who was second on the team in tackles (57), will be called upon to provide leadership for a depleted defense that lost eight starters.

Scoring points wasn't a problem last year at **San Diego**, as the Toreros led the league with 36.1 points per game and just over 432 total yards a contest. But coach Harbaugh must now replace quarterback Todd Mortensen (2,874 yards, 25 TDs), who shared the PFL North Offensive Player of the Year award with Phaydavong.

Running back Evan Harney will be back for his final season after setting a school record with 18 rushing TDs last year, averaging 121.3 yards a game in the process.

Linebacker Kyson Hawkins (73 tackles, 3 sacks) will lead the Toreros' seven returning defensive starters.

Times could be tough this season for **Valparaiso**, which is just two years removed from its first PFL championship. The Crusaders lost their biggest offensive threat in receiver Rob Giancola, who finished his career at Valparaiso with a total of 40 touchdowns, a school record.

Valpo may have to rely on its running game, which features junior tailback Jeff Horton (803 yards, 5 TDs). The starting QB job will go to Ryan Doerfler or Dustin Shamburg, both of whom saw significant time in 2004. Cornerback Brad Smeja, an All-PFL North first-team pick who led the team in tackles (79), returns to anchor the defense.

Butler has won just three games in the last three years, and will have another uphill struggle this season. Senior Bob Farmer, who attempted just 11 passes all of last season, will have the upper hand to take over the starting QB role and will try to rejuvenate an offense that last season scored just 10.7 points a game. The Bulldogs do return tailback Billy Nardini, whose five TDs led the team in 2004.

Senior David McMahon (five tackles for loss, 1.5 sacks) leads a defensive unit that ranked near the bottom of all league statistics.

SOUTH DIVISION

The running game at **Morehead State** should be solid—but the question remains of what to do with all of the productive halfbacks. Because of numerous injuries in the running game last year (11 players had at least 10 carries), a number of players were tried out during the season at the position.

Fullback Jabari McGee ended up leading the team in rushing (564 yards, 7 TDs), and was an all-league pick. Senior Tyler Cvitkovic returns as the team's leading TD passer (7 last season), but he'll face some competition from Marty Dorcich and Brian Yost, both of whom saw time in 2004.

On the other side of the ball, the Eagles will have to do without PFL co-Defensive Player of the Year Craig Unger, who led the league in sacks (6) and tackles for loss (16). However, defensive back Kwesi Williams returns. The senior tied for second in the PFL with five interceptions, while adding 81 tackles and three forced fumbles in '04.

Patience could finally pay off this year for **Austin Peay State**, which has suffered through losing seasons in 19 of the last 20 campaigns, including a 2-9 record in 2004. However, the Governors have the duo of quarterback Jesse Kellogg and running back Chris Fletcher back, as the two were both selected All-PFL South in 2004.

The Governors' defensive front should be OK, with all-league selection Steven Young joining fellow end Jordan Richardson and tackles Matt Wade and Drew Wilson.

The coaching staff at **Jacksonville** was thrown for a loop when former starting QB Mike Sturgill announced he was going to transfer just months before his final season. Sturgill was the school record-holder for both career passing yards (4,867) and touchdowns (38). Four underclassmen rotated at QB during spring practice, including Anthony Salgado and Chris Horton, both of whom saw time in 2004.

Jacksonville has its entire receiving corps back, led by Eldin Ferguson and Julio Santiago, who combined for 1,302 yards and six TDs last year. All-league kicker Ryan Feely (younger brother of NFL kicker Jay) led the league in punting and does double duty as the placekicker.

Despite having the South Division's offensive and co-defensive players of the year, **Davidson** was only able to manage two wins in 2004. Both are gone now, as is former starting QB Damion White. Sophomore Beaux Jones (son of former NFL quarterbacking great Bert) will likely fill White's position. All-PFL wide receiver Brett Dioguardi needs 129 yards for 1,000 in his career.

While 10 starters return on offense, defensively the Wildcats will have to fill numerous holes, as only two starters are back from last year's team. One of those is linebacker Alex Arinsmier, who was second in the PFL in tackles per game (9.4).

SOUTHERN



PREDICTIONS



Talent-laden SoCon loaded with national contenders—but they have to get through each other first

By Stan Olson

The Charlotte Observer

So will the Southern Conference's Big Four dominate again this season?

By now you know who we're talking about—Georgia Southern, Furman, Appalachian State and relative newcomer Wofford—leaving the other members to fight over the scraps. Last season, two made the Division I-AA playoffs, and all four schools feel primed to make runs this year.

The Southern Conference has been the most successful group in I-AA history, building a 71-44 record in the playoffs. That's more victories and a higher winning percentage (.617) than any other league, comfortably ahead of the Big Sky (56 wins, .544).

There's more: Southern members have won five national titles and have reached the championship game 13 times in the last 22 seasons.

Still, the league must be looking over its shoulder—the Atlantic 10 has grabbed the past two national crowns.

Several of the Big Four can make a strong case for the I-AA title, starting with **Furman**.

Last season it tied Georgia Southern for the Southern crown, finished the regular season with a No. 2 national ranking and lost to eventual champ James Madison, which left a disappointing taste, but the talent is on hand for another run.

That talent starts with QB Ingle Martin (2,792 yards and 22 TDs) who played brilliantly in his first season. Top rushers Cedrick Gipson (745 yards), Brandon Mays (682) and Deric Carter (579) return as well. The biggest hole to fill is found at tackle, left by the departure of Southern Conference Jacobs Blocking Trophy winner Ben Bainbridge.

But while coach Bobby Lamb's offense was clicking, his defense was just as impressive and it should be the key to this year's squad. Returning is conference Defensive Player of the Year William Freeman (100 tackles, 4.5 sacks) and all-conference defensive end Roy Ravenell.

Georgia Southern was almost unstoppable last season, averaging a whopping 47 points and 369.9 rushing yards a game, both tops in the nation.

Quarterback Chaz Williams is gone, but sophomore Jayson Foster could make Eagles fans quickly forget him. He's quick and elusive, and last year scored five different ways—rushing, receiving, punt return, kickoff return and passing. His initiation will go more smoothly because of the presence of senior fullback Jeremaine Austin (988 rushing yards).

Ten players return who were named either first- or second-team all-conference and the secondary is solid, led by A.J. Bryant (6 INTs).

It hasn't taken long for veteran **Wofford** coach Mike Ayers to figure out the Southern Conference. The Terriers win with a powerful option attack (305.1 rushing yards per game last season), but its top two QBs are gone. The key to the offense is junior RB Kevious Johnson (1,035 yards, 9 TDs) and junior QB Josh Collier. He completed four of 11 passes in 2004 but more importantly, averaged 5.8 yards a carry.

Wofford is always opportunistic; it led the Southern in turnover margin (plus-11) for the second straight year, and had 15 picks. The secondary returns experience, and junior linebacker Justin Franklin is back after leading the team in tackles (81) despite starting only three games. There were critical losses on the D-line starting with All-American Lee Basinger, but senior tackle Katon Bethay is back.

Are things getting a bit stale at **Appalachian State**? The Mountaineers uncharacteristically missed the playoffs for a second straight year, finishing 6-5. Coach Jerry Moore enters his 17th season in Boone, N.C., optimistic that things will be different.

There's bad news before the good, though. Moore kicked RB Alan Atwater (ASU's leading rusher with 1,290 yards over the past two seasons) off the squad for a violation of team rules. The Apps will rely heavily on senior QB Richie Williams, who returns after leading the league in passing a year ago (3,109 yards, 24 TDs).

While conference Offensive Player of the Year DaVon Fowlkes is gone, four receivers who had at least 200 yards receiving return.

The offense scored points quickly, but the defense gave them back just as quickly, allowing 32.5 a game. They'll try to regroup around junior defensive end Marques Murrell, who led the league with seven sacks.

Third-year coach Rodney Allison has to shake **Chattanooga** out of its propensity for slow starts. The Mocs lost their first six games in each of Allison's first two seasons. Oh, and there's another problem—they can't stop anyone.

Last season, they allowed 48.1 points a game, so Allison brought in former East Tennessee State and Elon defensive coordinator Billy Taylor to stop the hemorrhaging. There is talent on hand though, starting with sophomore QB Antonio Miller. Two receivers return in juniors Emanuel Hassell (55 catches for 647 yards) and Tyrus Ward (43 for 660).

The defense returns five starters, including 6-foot-7 defensive tackle Troy Blackwell, who's blocked six kicks in his career.

Western Carolina's chances of breeching the upper echelon dimmed with the news that QB Bennett Swygert will miss all of 2005 after having surgery on both shoulders.

| | |
|---|-------------------|
| 1 | Furman |
| 2 | Georgia Southern |
| 3 | Wofford |
| 4 | Appalachian State |
| 5 | Chattanooga |
| 6 | Western Carolina |
| 7 | Erlon |
| 8 | The Citadel |

TOP PLAYERS

| | |
|----------|--|
| Offense | Richie Williams , QB, Appalachian State |
| Defense | William Freeman , LB, Furman |
| Newcomer | Brandon Johnson , S, Chattanooga |

GAMES TO WATCH

| | |
|----------|--|
| 08.17.05 | Georgia Southern at Wofford |
| 10.08.05 | Appalachian State at Furman |
| 10.15.05 | Georgia Southern at Appalachian State |
| 11.12.05 | Wofford at Furman |

Before he was injured last year, he threw for 573 yards, five TDs and five picks.

So who takes over? Either junior Justin Clark (1,065 passing yards) or sophomore Russell Hemby (376). Improvement is necessary in an offensive line that yielded 26 sacks a year ago.

However, the key to a winning season will be continued improvement of the defense, which safety Primus Glover and cornerback Bruce Lee will anchor.

Although last season's mark was 4-7, there was a silver lining—Western beat archrival Appalachian to win the Old Mountain Jug for just the second time since 1985.

It's one thing to lose key players when their eligibility runs out. It's another entirely when it happens early, such was Erlon's fate when star sophomore running back John Taylor (1,069 yards) became an academic casualty.

Coach Paul Hamilton will have to look elsewhere for answers. He's good at adjusting; last season he moved promising fullback Chad Nkang to linebacker, where he led the league in tackles (135).

Along the way, the Phoenix advanced from 2-10 in its first conference season to 3-8 in 2004. For further improvement, Hamilton is staying inside the family with QB son, Kye, who threw for over 1,000 yards as a freshman.

A moment of silence for **The Citadel**, which didn't announce its new football coach until March 24. John Zernhelt fled to the New York Jets and the Bulldogs replaced him with Kevin Higgins, who had been with the Detroit Lions. Higgins is a solid pick, however, having won regularly at Lehigh.

He also works well with QBs, which should help sophomore Duran Lawson (925 passing yards), who became the starter midway through last season. The Bulldogs must improve a dismal offense that averaged 16.2 points in 2004.

The team will depend on second-team all-conference safety Shawn Grant for leadership.



1. Northwestern State
2. Texas State
3. Sam Houston State
4. Stephen F. Austin
5. Nicholls State
6. McNeese State
7. SE Louisiana

TOP PLAYERS

| | |
|----------|---------------------------------------|
| Offense | Martin Hankins, QB, SE Louisiana |
| Defense | Fred Evans, DE, Texas State |
| Newcomer | Marvin Byrdsong, LB, Northwestern St. |

GAMES TO WATCH

| | |
|----------|-------------------------------------|
| 10.08.05 | Northwestern St. at Sam Houston St. |
| 10.22.05 | Northwestern State at Texas State |
| 11.05.05 | SE Louisiana at Sam Houston State |

Although new coaches are the talk of the town, expect NSU Demons' dominance to continue

By Bill Smith

Street & Smith's Correspondent

This is the year of the coach in the Southland Conference, as almost half the seven-team football lineup will put rookie head coaches on the field. The dean of the SLC, Sam Houston State's Ron Randleman, peaked the turnover when he announced his retirement the day after the Bearkats closed one of the greatest turnarounds in Division I-AA history. Randleman handed the Bearkats to Todd Whitten after claiming his third SLC title and turning the program from 2-9 in 2003 to 11-3 and a I-AA semifinalist last season.

Over the past 17 months, five of the seven head coaching jobs opened, leaving McNeese State's Tommy Tate as the new dean with only five years on the job. Next on the list—Northwestern State's Scott Stoker, the 2004 Southland Coach of the Year—has only been at the helm three years.

Even the league newcomer, Southeastern Louisiana, joined in as Hal Mumme left the Lions' resurrection early to become the head coach at New Mexico State. But little will change for SLU, as key assistant Dennis Roland took over in the spring.

The Lions are an intriguing X-factor for the SLC race. Crushing an independent schedule last year behind sophomore wonder QB Martin Hankins, SLU now takes on six teams experienced against pass-happy offenses. With an astonishing 65 touchdowns and almost 8,000 yards so far in his career, Hankins will entertain SLC stadiums, but the balanced attack led by Northwestern State senior Davon Vinson should win the title.

In fact, the challenge isn't picking the top team—the 2005 title is Northwestern's to lose—it is figuring out who finishes second.

Balance was the key for Northwestern State in 2004, and sweeping the Offensive and Defensive Players of the Year along with

Coach of the Year for Scott Stoker is perfect evidence. But Stoker now must replace those two stars, as running back Derrick Johnese declared early for the NFL Draft and linebacker Jamall Johnson graduated. The Demons will call on Shelton Sampson to fill the hole at RB, as the senior was fifth in the conference with 678 yards and added 11 touchdowns in 2004. Keeping the running game on track is important for NSU, but senior starting quarterback Davon Vinson (1,240 yards, 10 TDs) showed new accuracy in the spring. The Demons finished the season as the nation's top I-AA defense, and Stoker returns seven starters in the Purple Swarm. It's an interesting mix of veterans such as linebackers T.J. McMillan and Paul Mefford along with a talented class of sophomores led by linemen Raymond Martin, Clayton Elliot and Charlie Brooks. Don't worry about Stoker finding Johnson's replacement, as Marvin Byrdsong, a *Parade* All-America transfer from Mississippi State, takes over at linebacker.

Better is the operative word for **Texas State**. Quarterback Barrick Nealey (1,202 yards, 10 TDs) leads 19 returning starters for coach David Bailiff. The Bobcats came within a game of a share of the SLC title last year, and the near miss, plus an infusion of I-A transfers, make TSU the surprise team for 2005. Defensive end Fred Evans—the league's Newcomer of the Year—is one of 10 starters returning. Senior linebacker David Simmons made 10 of his 34 total tackles behind the line of scrimmage last season. However, the Bobcats ranked near the bottom of the conference in almost every defensive category.

The legend of Huntsville, Texas, Ron Randleman, retired at **Sam Houston State**, leaving an interesting rebuilding task for new coach Todd Whitten. The high-powered Bearkat offense also lost its record-setting quarterback, Dustin Long, and wide receiver Jarrod Fuller. Whitten has options for replacing Long, topped by Noah Allen and Brett Hicks, and his running back returns in senior Jason Godfrey (662 yards, 2 TDs). Solid in the lines and good on defense, what Whitten lacks is a single returning receiver with collegiate experience. The Bearkats decided to go the conversion route, as Josh Moore (formerly a safety) and Stevie Smith (ex-tailback) got plenty of looks in the spring, but SHSU needs more to stay ahead in the arena football-scoring atmosphere of the SLC.

Injuries at the wrong time left **Stephen F. Austin** on the outside of the conference race. The offense returns plenty of power for new head coach Robert McFarland, paced by senior quarterback Zeke Dixon (339 yards, 2 TDs). The 112 points scored in the spring game confirmed Dixon's mastery of the Lumberjacks' new offense, and gave young backs Lester Simmons and Louie Runnels and receiver Tyrell Williams the chance to

shine. The bad news: the defense gave up more than 100 points in the spring game. The Jacks are very young—just a handful of seniors on the roster—and count on underclassmen linebackers Robert Castillo and Erik Wilson to anchor a rebuilt defense that returns only six starters. While McFarland got some answers in the spring, a number of questions remain for August due to a large group of star players that missed the spring due to injury.

Nicholls State also made coaching news in the offseason, giving Jay Thomas a contract extension after he guided the Colonels to a 5-5 finish in his first year. Thomas' immediate challenge is replacing one of NSU's top all-time rushers, Colt Colletti, in order to keep the Colonels' ground game at the top of the SLC. More consistency from senior quarterback Yale Vannoy's passing (700 yards, 5 TDs) to go with his rushing (460, 7) and the return of sophomore fullback Broderick Cole (512, 4) help the Colonels. Nicholls State handed Northwestern its only conference loss, but losing both starting running backs in the option attack—Colletti and David Plaisance—puts the pressure on backups Joel Fotenot-Amadee and Joseph Robbins.

The **McNeese State** offense focuses on a trio of returning tailbacks, led by junior Chris Thomas, a near-1,000-yard rusher who averaged 106.2 all-purpose yards per game. Senior Chris Jones (861 yards, 7 TDs) got a head start on 2005 when coach Tommy Tate benched four-year standout Scott Pendarvis to start his future QB in three of the last four games, including a season-finale win over Nicholls State. The Cowboys' offense was sporadically explosive, cranking out 644 total yards against Sam Houston State. Unfortunately, the 52-47 loss to the Bearkats was symbolic of a defense that was consistently poor, as they gave up more than 50 points in five games.

For a team known for years by SLC followers as a basketball school, **Southeastern Louisiana's** return to the football race may cause more than a few scoreboard resets. Cranking out close to 40 points a game, the Hal Mumme-inspired offense rolls into a full league schedule for the first time since the sport was dropped at the Hammond, La., college in 1985. First-year head coach Dennis Roland won't change the Lions' high-powered offense, led by Walter Payton Award candidate Martin Hankins (4,240 yards, 35 TDs last season) at quarterback. Roland adds to the high-powered offense with the addition of much awaited Auburn transfer Jerald Watson at tailback, but that may be countered by the loss of three seniors in the offensive line. Hankins' 149.0 pass efficiency rating gets a tougher test this fall, as SLU gets a full slate of I-AA games after a 7-4 dessert tray in 2004 that included a 1-2 showing in games against SLC opponents.

Cosby kids set to rule MEAC again

By Lut Williams
Black College Sports Page

The Hampton University football program received a lot of national attention last season.

First, Marcus Dixon, a young student/athlete from Rome, Ga., embroiled in a national controversy related to his court case, surprisingly landed on the Hampton campus just before the season started. Dixon survived the initial publicity, flew under the radar for a while and eventually became a starter for the Pirates on the defensive line.

Then, there were Cosby's kids.

Entertainer Bill Cosby decided to provide three kids from the Springfield, Mass., area (where Cosby resides) with the opportunity to get a college education. The three chose Hampton. Cosby, to much fanfare, flew the three to Hampton on his private jet. Two of them ended up on the football team.

Neither of these incidents that played out before the glare of the national media did anything to distract Joe Taylor and his Pirates from winning their first Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference title since taking back-to-back crowns in 1997 and 1998.

Regular-season wins over nationally ranked Western Illinois and Gardner-Webb by Hampton fulfilled a mandate from the conference to play and beat better out-of-conference competition. The next step would be a playoff win, which the MEAC hasn't experienced since 1999.

With most of its weapons returning on both sides of the ball, Hampton is the favorite to repeat in 2005 and get another shot at the postseason big boys. Florida A&M, one of the two conference teams that posted playoff victories in '99, returns to the MEAC fold after a two-year flirtation with Division I status and is expected to resume its place among the conference's elite. South Carolina State and Bethune-Cookman also have the horses to mount serious challenges.

With the departure of NFL-bound speedster Jerome Mathis, **Hampton** (10-2 overall, 6-1 MEAC) may not have the ability to put up the 43.5 points per game that was second best in the nation in 2004. But nine of 11 starters returning on defense and seven of 11 on offense could mean the Pirates will be even better.

On offense, the Pirates are explosive with 1,000-yard rushers Alonzo Coleman (1,133 yards, 13 TDs) and Ardell Daniels (1,098, 15), plus second-team All-MEAC quarterback Princeton Shepherd (18 TDs, 7 INTs), who led the league in pass efficiency. Talented Kent State transfer Antwon Smith may push Shepherd as the triggerman.

MEAC Player of the Year Justin Durant, a linebacker, and MEAC sack leader Micah Littlejohn (end) lead a defense that needs to get stingier to get to the next level.

Coach Buddy Pough must successfully blend a number of new components on both offense and defense to get **South Carolina State** (9-2, 6-1) back into championship contention.

Cleveland McCoy replaces productive Brett Young at QB, and will have 1,000-yard rusher Deshawn Baker back. Speedy wide receiver Rodreikas Darby, who averaged 19.6 yards on 30 catches will be counted on to increase production in the passing game.

All-conference tackle Marcus Darby is the mainstay of a defense that lost five starters.

Injuries that racked the team were surpassed only by hurricanes in the Daytona Beach area that wreaked havoc on practice schedules for **Bethune-Cookman** (6-4, 4-3) last season. The Wildcats still showed enough resilience to challenge for the MEAC title. A solid defense and the development of young signal-callers Jarod Rucker and Jimmie Russell were the keys.

Wingback Eric Weems, the team's rushing (541 yards, 8 TDs) and receiving (539, 2) leader, and Jonathan Summers (25 receptions, 3 TDs) are two of the most dangerous and smallest guys (5-9) in the league.

Defensive back Nick Collins (second-round NFL pick), linebacker Jamal Muhammad and lineman Alex Saunders are gone, as is coordinator Pete Adrian, who left to become the head coach at Norfolk State.

Coach Billy Joe says minus the "drama and trauma" that accompanied the school's move to Division I and threatened his job, **Florida A&M** (3-7 overall) should again be competitive in the MEAC.

Josh Driscoll, an Arkansas State transfer, is next in line at QB. The 6-2, 220-pounder is being pushed by Albert Chester II, the son of the QB who led FAMU to the 1978 I-AA national title. Either should be comfortable in an offense that returns nine of 11 starters, including running back Rashard Pompey (540 yards, 6 TDs), plus wideout Roosevelt Kiser (60 catches, 8 TDs).

Defensive end/linebacker Tyrone McGriff and defensive backs Sammy Doughty and O'Bryan Brandy both return.

The league's top-rated defense carried **Howard** and coach Ray Petty to his second 6-5 record in three seasons. A woeful passing game that ranked last (117.5 yards per game) in the MEAC kept them from moving higher.

The defense is again stout, with eight of 11 starters returning. Safety Antoine Bethea and lineman Jesse Hayes, both All-MEAC picks, are the ringleaders.

An offensive line that returns four starters will help QB Ron Venters (6-1, 200), a transfer from El Camino (Calif.) CC, improve on the passing numbers. The Bison also possess a strong running game led by junior Antoine Rutherford (685 yards, 2 TDs), who ran for 1,000 yards as a freshman.

| | |
|----|----------------------|
| 1. | Hampton |
| 2. | South Carolina State |
| 3. | Bethune-Cookman |
| 4. | Florida A&M |
| 5. | Howard |
| 6. | Morgan State |
| 7. | Delaware State |
| 8. | North Carolina A&T |
| 9. | Norfolk State |

TOP PLAYERS

| | |
|----------|--------------------------------|
| Offense | Alonzo Coleman, RB, Hampton |
| Defense | Justin Durant, LB, Hampton |
| Newcomer | Roderick Stevens, OB, N.C. A&T |

GAMES TO WATCH

| | |
|----------|---|
| 09.10.05 | Hampton at Howard |
| 09.17.05 | Bethune-Cookman vs. S. C. State (Jacksonville, Fla.) |
| 11.12.05 | Florida A&M at Hampton |

It was a nightmare of opposites at **Morgan State** (5-6, 3-4), where the league's most prolific offense (457.6 yards per game, 36.6 points per game) was done in by its worst defense (442.1 ypg., 38.5 ppg). Not surprisingly, coach Donald Hill replaced his defensive coordinator and secondary coach.

Defensive lineman Aaris Johnson and safety Larry Davis are All-MEAC returnees.

Running back Jason Jackson (1,191 yards, 9 TDs), who led the league in rushing (132.2 ypg) despite playing in only nine games, joins wideout Kelvin Dickens (1,019 yards, 7 TDs) as potent weapons. The task of replacing the MEAC Player of the Year, QB Bradshaw Littlejohn, will go to Byron Selby.

New coach Al Lavan rode a controlled passing attack and good special-teams play to a surprising third-place finish for **Delaware State** (4-7, 4-3) last year. In fact, the Hornets were the only conference team to get a win over Hampton. Quarterback Bryan Botts (205.7 yards per game, 12 TDs) returns to lead the ball-control offense.

The tackling (104 tackles) and pass-rushing (6.5 sacks) ability of all-conference safety Sam Smith keys the defense.

Injuries, particularly on offense, ravaged **North Carolina A&T** (3-8, 1-6) last year and held the Aggies to the league's lowest scoring output (16.4 points per game).

Senior QB Marshall Glenn (1,167 yards 6 TDs, 15 INTs) returns to lead the offense and has veteran receivers returning in Brandon Trusty (42 catches), Curtis Walls and Doug Brown. Coach George Small is particularly high on transfer QB Roderick Stevens, the MVP of Mississippi's junior-college all-star game.

First-team All-MEAC end Rickie Lewis leads a defense that finished third statistically in the conference.

New coach Pete Adrian comes to **Norfolk State** (1-8, 1-6) after eight years of building one of the MEAC's most respected defenses at Bethune-Cookman. He'll be trying to turn around a program that has not had a winning season in eight years. Adrian is implementing a 3-4 defense, saying he will emphasize speed.

| EAST | |
|------|--------------------|
| 1. | Alabama State |
| 2. | Alabama A&M |
| 3. | Alcorn State |
| 4. | Miss. Valley State |
| 5. | Jackson State |

| WEST | |
|------|---------------------|
| 1. | Grambling State |
| 2. | Southern |
| 3. | Arkansas-Pine Bluff |
| 4. | Prairie View A&M |
| 5. | Texas Southern |

TOP PLAYERS

| | |
|----------|-------------------------------------|
| Offense | Bruce Eugene, QB, Grambling State |
| Defense | Lennard Patton, DT, Grambling State |
| Newcomer | Bo Moncur, RB, Alabama A&M |

GAMES TO WATCH

| | |
|----------|---|
| 09.17.05 | Grambling State at Washington State |
| 10.29.05 | Alabama A&M vs. Alabama State (Birmingham, Ala.) |
| 11.05.05 | Grambling State at Alabama State |

Hornets could put SWAC sting on other teams, but watch out for the always-dangerous Tigers

By Lut Williams
Black College Sports Page

The balance of power in the Southwestern Athletic Conference took a shift to the East last year, and that shift is likely to continue in 2005.

After five straight championships by West Division teams, an East Division school—Alabama State—broke through to claim last year's SWAC title.

Second-year coach Charles Coe III's Hornets made their second straight trip to the title game against Southern and got revenge for a heartbreaking 42-41 regular-season loss (and one in last year's title game) to the Jaguars by downing the West Division champs 40-35.

The Hornets return several key players on an offense that put up a league-best 33.9 points per game last year and should remain at the top of the power grid.

The loss of senior All-America quarterback Bruce Eugene in Melvin Spears' first game as head coach knocked conference favorite Grambling State for a loop. The Tigers regrouped behind freshman QB Brandon Landers and finished a respectable 6-5. With Eugene back after being granted a medical redshirt by the NCAA, the Tigers will come in as West Division favorites.

Southern is retooling, but is still the team most likely to challenge Grambling in the West.

EAST DIVISION

Coe got the proverbial monkey off the back of **Alabama State** (10-2 overall, 6-1 SWAC) with the championship win over Southern, the only SWAC team the Hornets had not beaten in his two years at the helm. With the championship in hand, it's the Hornets who will be marked men now.

That's fine with returning senior QB Tarvaris Jackson, who, despite great numbers (2,556 passing yards, 20 TDs, 9 INTs),

was snubbed in all-conference voting. He is the triggerman of the league's most potent backfield, which features two-time rushing leader Keldrick Williams (1,167 yards, 17 TDs) and change-of-pace backup Robert Randolph (750, 9).

Finding replacements for three starters lost on both the offensive and defensive lines, along with replacing Ronald "Roc" Dillon (the conference's Defensive Player of the Year), are Coe's biggest challenges.

Defense once again carried **Alabama A&M** (7-4, 5-2) to the brink of a division title, but as usual it was the offense that let the Bulldogs down.

The SWAC's best defensive unit gets back a strong group of starters that includes end Chris Traylor, who was tied for the league lead with 8.5 sacks.

A new passing-game coordinator is charged with helping sophomore Kelcy Luke, who emerged from spring ball as the starting quarterback. Promising UAB transfer Bo Moncur and fellow newcomer Jarmaine Williams join returning rushing leader Nic Luke (614 yards, 5 TDs) to give the Bulldogs a strong running attack.

After relying on the passing of second-team all-conference QB Donald Carrie for four years, **Alcorn State** (7-4, 4-3) will be looking for more balance in its offensive attack. But with all-conference receivers Charlie Spiller (50 receptions, 1,111 yards, 9 TDs) and Nate Hughes (48, 781, 4) still in the fold, coach Johnny Thomas must find a replacement for Carrie, who left Alcorn trailing only Steve McNair in the school record books.

That job is likely to fall to Oliver Bozeman, a talented but inexperienced player who won the job in the spring.

The hopes of **Mississippi Valley State** (3-8, 1-6) are firmly pinned to junior QB Aries Nelson, last year's SWAC Newcomer of the Year. The poised, 6-3, 215-pound Mississippi State transfer impressed everyone in the conference with his throwing (1,733 yards, 9 TDs) and running (390 yards, 3 TDs) ability.

Nelson's favorite target, Shang Moore (35 receptions, 4 TDs) returns, as does running back Carlton Cotton.

The MVSU defense is led by linebacker Tyler Knight, who averaged 10 tackles per game last year, second best in the league.

Coach James Bell believes his **Jackson State** (4-7, 3-4) team got a little closer to where he wants them last year, but needs more physical and mental toughness to get over the hump.

Steve Haren, juco product Terrence Matthews and Kethonne McLaurin will vie for QB duty. Look for an increased workload for junior RB David Kennebrew (610 yards, 7 TDs). Byron Johnson, Jaymar Johnson and Cletis Gordon lead the receiving corps.

The Tigers took the biggest hits on defense, losing first-team all-conference players Deon Deboise and Joseph Scott.

WEST DIVISION

Having an experienced quarterback behind All-American Bruce Eugene can only be a good thing for **Grambling State** (6-5, 3-4) and coach Melvin Spears. Freshman Brandon Landers cushioned the blow of Eugene's loss by putting up a solid year (2,283 yards, 18 TDs), good enough to earn SWAC Freshman-of-the-Year honors.

But that's not the only good news. Spears lost only one starter from the offensive line, returns his top rushers in tailback Ab Kuuan (637 yards, 10 TDs) and fullback Ruben Mayes—both All-SWAC selections—and his leading receivers in Clyde Edwards (30 receptions) and Henry Tolbert (29).

Standout defensive tackle Lennard Patton returns from an injury to shore up a defense that lost five starters, but returns DEs Jason Hatcher (4.5 sacks) and Jason Banks (5.5).

Southern (8-4, 6-1) has won the last two West Division crowns, and for the Jaguars to have any chance of making it three straight, new QB Joseph Lewis will have to learn the offense quickly.

Talented receivers James Vernon (56 receptions, 6 TDs) Antonio Overstreet (38, 7) and Emile Bryant (37, 4) should help smooth Lewis' transition. Steel Adams (388 yards, 3 TDs) is the returning RB.

Mo Forte built the league's top rushing attack at **Arkansas-Pine Bluff** (6-3, 5-2), and that and a swarming defense nearly carried the Golden Lions to a division title in 2004. Building on last year's success will be tough minus the three rushers who ran for nearly 2,000 total yards, however.

Fourth-string tailback Brashaad Mayweather will get first shot at the ball-carrying position, but will face a challenge from New Mexico State transfer Tony Joseph. John Pierce will likely return as the starter at quarterback.

The high moments were few and far between for new **Prairie View A&M** (3-8, 1-6) coach Henry Frazier, but there were some. A three-win season and an opening win over rival Texas Southern (its first since 1988) were signals that progress was being made.

Big things are expected from sophomore RB Arnell Fontenot, who led the team with 499 rushing yards, and WR Anthony Wright, who averaged 21.7 yards on his 26 receptions. Senior Michael Hill and sophomore Chris Gibson will battle for the QB spot.

To say that coach Steve Wilson's team at **Texas Southern** (0-11, 0-7) struggled would be a gross understatement. The Tigers were outscored by an average of about 25 points while ranking at the bottom of nearly every statistical category in the league.

Freshman QBs Tino Edgecombe and Kevin Parsons and a young offensive line got their baptism under fire, as every opponent tried to blitz them into submission.

Defensive back Stacey Thomas earned first-team All-SWAC honors based on his 104 tackles and 3.5 sacks.

>>> DIVISION

Valdosta State will be happy to win ugly again —as long as it means a repeat NCAA title

By Gregg Dewalt
Decatur (Ala.) Daily

As a player at Valdosta State, Chris Hatcher experienced more than his fair share of success. He set numerous school records as quarterback of the Blazers, and managed to snag the 1994 Harlon Hill Trophy as the best player in Division II.

Hatcher's resume, however, was missing one key achievement—a national championship.

Hatcher's resume is now complete. The Blazers allowed their coach to make an addendum to his credentials with a stirring 36-31 victory over Pittsburg (Kan.) State for the school's first football title last year. And the Blazers did it in style, coming from behind against the nation's top scoring team.

To borrow a well-worn advertising cliché, the Blazers "won the championship the hard way—they earned it." The season started with a loss to Albany State, but ended 13 consecutive wins later with a D2 title. Along the way, the Blazers rallied for four wins and used a goal-line stand in the final seconds of another. While Pittsburg State was blasting its way to the championship game, Valdosta State was scrapping and clawing and digging its way out of seemingly one hole after another.

Now, the question facing Hatcher and the Blazers is whether they can do it again.

TOP 25

Valdosta State (13-1) loses 12 starters, including quarterback Fabian Walker, from the championship team. And it remains to be seen if the Blazers can recapture the magic of so many comebacks.

Hatcher, for one, thinks his team can. "You hope you can make your own breaks," says Hatcher, whose team rallied from a 24-0 halftime deficit against Albany State in the quarterfinals. "The only way to win a championship is if the ball bounces in your direction some of the time."

Although the Blazers were in the national rankings throughout the season, they might have slipped in under the radar given the

way they failed to dominate the Gulf South Conference as they had in the past. Valdosta State held off Delta State 51-48 by stopping two running plays from inside the one-yard-line in the closing seconds; scored 21 points in the fourth quarter to beat North Alabama 24-20; and overtook West Alabama 34-17 after trailing 17-10.

Valdosta State used the same magic to come from behind against Albany, then spotted Pittsburg State a 14-0 lead in the championship. In the end, it was the Blazers who had the last laugh.

"That group played together better than any group I've ever seen," Hatcher recalls. "We improved each week, and I never thought that we peaked, even in the championship game."

Hatcher has a solid replacement for Walker. Barrett Wilkes returns at quarterback after taking a redshirt season in 2004. Hatcher's primary concern is replacing three offensive and three defensive linemen.

"When you have [only] 36 scholarships to give, you're never stocked at any position," Hatcher says. "We've got to create competition at every position. Nobody can get complacent. If you can keep that from happening, it makes it a lot easier to reload."

For the first time, the Blazers also enter the season as a marked team—by their GSC rivals and by the rest of the nation's elite teams.

Returning to the championship game won't be an easy road for **Pittsburg State** (14-1). Coach Chuck Broyles must replace nine starters, including the majority of an offensive line and a quarterback that fueled the Gorillas' record-setting season that saw them set the NCAA all-division record for points scored (830) and total offense (5,320 yards).

It's not like the Gorillas aren't loaded, though. Andy Majors takes over for record-setting Neal Philpot at quarterback, and the fifth-year senior has appeared in 37 games and complied 3,839 yards of total offense. Running back Germaine Race, who scored 26 touchdowns and rushed

for 2,213 yards, anchors the offense, while defensive end Ryan Meredith (22 tackles for loss, 12 sacks) and linebacker Josh Lattimer (124 tackles) should make life difficult for opposing offensive coordinators.

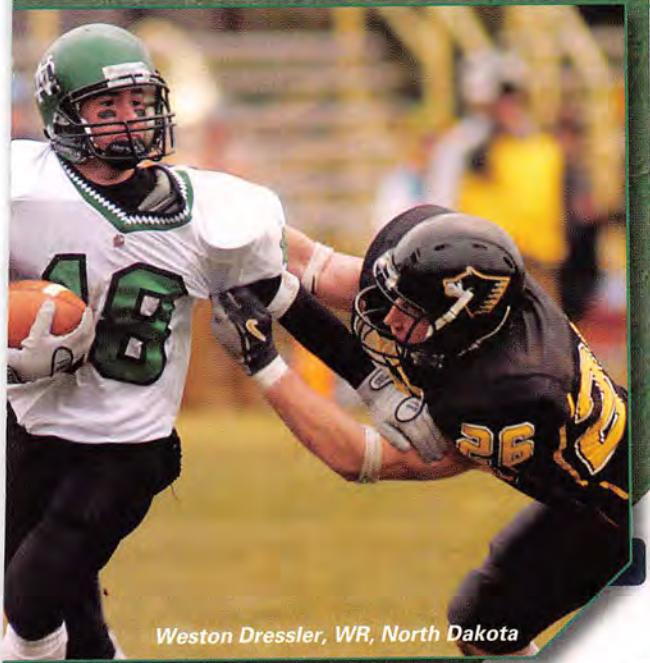
Grand Valley State (10-3) saw its string of Division II championships rudely interrupted at two when the Lakers lost 19-15 at North Dakota in the quarterfinal round of the playoffs. Second-year coach Chuck Martin has the Lakers positioned to make another run at a title with 10 offensive starters returning and two others coming off injuries that cost them the entire 2004 season.

The offense appears loaded with junior QB Cullen Finnerty (2,462 yards, 25 TDs) coming off a strong season. Finnerty's top two receivers—Demonte Collins and Brandon Langston—combined for 127 catches, 1,819 yards receiving and 24 TDs. Toledo transfer Astin Martin enters the fold at running back after compiling 1,221 yards and 16 TDs in two seasons with the Rockets. Joe Wolschiod, a transfer from Northwestern, will anchor the offensive line, while Utah State transfer Jorge Tapia and Minnesota transfer Samad Cain will help a defense that is trying to replace three All-Americans.

North Dakota (11-3) should be loaded again, especially on defense with linebacker Digger Anderson and safety Danny Gagner returning. The Fighting Sioux feature two exceptional special-teamers in kicker Jeff Glas (21 field goals) and Weston Dressler, who led the NCAA in punt returns.

East Stroudsburg (8-2) will be led by one of the nation's best quarterbacks in Jimmy Terwilliger (3,826 yards, 36 TD passes) and one of Division II's best safeties, Matt Crispell (10 INTs).

Northwest Missouri State (11-2) is one of those teams that always seems positioned to challenge for a national title. That shouldn't change this year, as running back Xavier Omon returns following a stellar freshman season (1,578 yards, 19 TDs). Quarterbacks Josh Lamberson and Josh Matthews, who



Weston Dressler, WR, North Dakota

PRESEASON TOP 25

1. Valdosta State
2. Pittsburg State
3. Grand Valley State
4. North Dakota
5. East Stroudsburg
6. Northwest Missouri State
7. Texas A&M-Kingsville
8. Edinboro
9. Northwood
10. Albany State
11. West Chester
12. Arkansas Tech
13. Shippensburg
14. Colorado School of Mines
15. Carson-Newman
16. Michigan Tech
17. St. Cloud State
18. Fayetteville State
19. Nebraska-Omaha
20. Southeastern Oklahoma State
21. Winona State
22. Midwestern State
23. Delta State
24. Chadron State
25. Shaw

WILLIAM A. RICE / DAILY MINING GAZETTE / AP/WIDE WORLD PHOTOS

GAMES TO WATCH

| | |
|----------|--|
| Sept. 10 | East Stroudsburg at C.W. Post |
| Sept. 24 | Shippensburg at Edinboro |
| Oct. 1 | Tuskegee at Albany State |
| Oct. 8 | Texas A&M-Kingsville at Central Oklahoma |
| Nov. 5 | Adams State at Colorado School of Mines |

combined for 30 touchdown passes and 3,000 passing yards, will battle for the starting job. Lamberson started for half of the season before being sidelined by a hip injury.

Texas A&M-Kingsville (9-2) has won four consecutive Lone Star Conference titles, but is looking to return to the national prominence it enjoyed in the 1990s when it seemingly was in contention annually for a national championship. The Javelinas should be excellent on defense with the return of All-America linebacker Deandre Fillmore (163 tackles, 18 for loss).

Edinboro (9-3) has won back-to-back Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference West Division titles and made three straight playoff appearances for coach Lou Tepper, the former head man at the University of Illinois. With 19 returning starters, this could be the best of Tepper's teams. Tailback Andre Burke is coming off a 1,713-yard, 19-TD season. He'll be running behind an offensive line that returns all five starters, including Greg Bzorek, a 6-foot-6, 318-pound bruiser at tackle.

The defense is also good, as Tom Davidson (8) and Chris Avery (6) combined for 14 of the Scots' school-record 30 interceptions.

Northwood (10-2) claimed a piece of the Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference title for the first time since 2000 and tied a school record for wins in the process. The Timberwolves should challenge for the conference's top spot again with Kyle Kolbe (16 TD passes, 883 yards rushing).

Albany State (11-1) handed Valdosta State its only loss and nearly ended the Blazers' playoff hopes in the NCAA quarterfinals. Most of the Golden Rams' top players return for another run at the Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference title.

West Chester (11-4) made it all the way to the national semifinals, and should be explosive on offense with wideout Brandon Simmons (74 catches, 1,534 yards, 20 TDs) and running back Osage Osunde (2,036 all-purpose yards, 17 rushing touchdowns).

With five key offensive performers returning, including tight end Josh Rogers (32 catches, 9 TDs), **Arkansas Tech** (10-2) should challenge Valdosta State for the Gulf South Conference title.

Shippensburg (10-2) must replace fullback John Kuhn (1,487 yards, 14 TDs) but returns standout defensive back Brent Grimes (7 INTs).

It went 46 years in between Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference championships, but **Colorado School of Mines** (12-1) seems to be ready to remain a fixture on the national scene. The Orediggers won the first playoff game in school history before getting bumped by Pittsburg State. Coach Bob Stitt's team returns 15 starters, including nine on defense, but Harlon Hill Trophy-winning quarterback Chad Frieauf has graduated. Whoever wins the quarterback position will have a game-breaking receiver in Justin Gallas (95 catches, 1,352 yards, 10 TDs) as a target.

Carson-Newman (9-3) won its 18th South Atlantic Conference title in 2004. Running back Rayvon Howard (1,268 yards, 17 TDs) should help offset the loss of All-SAC quarterback Shane Kelly.

Michigan Tech (9-2) shared the GLIAC title with Northwood, completing a big turnaround under coach Bernie Anderson. It was the first title in 17 years for Tech and only the third nine-win season in the team's 82-year history. Michigan Tech loses 20 seniors, but running back Lee Marana (1,520 yards, 21 TDs) provides plenty of firepower.

St. Cloud State (8-3) returns two of the best players in the North Central

Intercollegiate Athletic Conference: running back Matt Birkel, who rushed for 1,689 yards and 18 touchdowns, and defensive back Mitchell Denne, who had seven interceptions and 85 tackles.

Fayetteville State (8-4) was one of only two teams to defeat Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association champ Shaw in the 2004 regular season, posting a 24-14 victory. Anthony Hicks is one of the nation's top returning defensive backs, coming off a season in which he had 10 sacks and 15 tackles for loss.

With 19 returning starters, **Nebraska-Omaha** (8-3) will again be among the elite NCAAC teams. The Mavericks will build their offense around QB Brian Masek, who threw 17 touchdown passes and ran for seven more, and running back Jamar Day, who rushed for 1,541 yards and 17 touchdowns.

Southeastern Oklahoma State (8-3) has a new coach in former defensive coordinator Ray Richards, who arrives from Southwest Baptist. Richards' first task will be to find a replacement for QB Drew Beard, the all-time leader in total offense in the Lone Star Conference with 9,684 yards.

Winona State (10-2) is coming off its eighth conference title since 1993, but must replace Harlon Hill Trophy finalist Chris Samp, who caught 22 of the team's 34 touchdown passes.

Midwestern State (8-3) will try to build its offense around a pair of sophomores—QB Rashaan Bell (8 TD passes) and running back Ross Harrison (770 yards, 8 TDs).

With 3,369-yard passer Scott Eyster returning for his junior season,

Delta State (6-4) should contend in the tough Gulf South Conference. Eyster's 358.9 yards per game of total offense ranked second in the NCAA, and he had an excellent TD/interception ratio of 28-to-7.

Chadron State (7-3) has a new coach in Bill O'Boyle, who was elevated after a six-year stint as offensive coordinator. Making things easier for O'Boyle is the return of running back

Danny Woodhead, who led Division II in rushing (184.0 yards per game), all-purpose yards (208.7) and scoring (16.2 points per game) a year ago. A true freshman, Woodhead scored 25 touchdowns and ran for 1,840 yards.

It's been a quick revival of **Shaw** (10-2) football under coach Deondri Clark, who in two years is 17-5 since the school reinstated the program. The Bears beat Fayetteville State 10-7 to win their first CIAA title since 1947, and added a 30-28 win over Tuskegee in the Pioneer Bowl. The Bears led the nation in total defense, thanks partly to defensive back Torrance Nunnally, who had six interceptions.

BEST OF THE REST

Tuskegee (10-2) should fight Albany State for the SIAC with tough defense and an efficient offense led by QB Kevin Huff, who passed and ran for 20 total touchdowns last year.

Central Oklahoma (8-2) shared the Lone Star Conference Northern Division championship. With 14 starters returning, including the pass-catch combo of QB Justin Allgood and wide receiver Cedric Jones (71 catches), the Bronchos should contend for another title.

South Dakota (9-2) enjoyed its best season since 1986, setting 26 school records. With 18 starters returning, including QB Wesley Beschorner, who had a combined

27 touchdowns rushing and passing, the Coyotes could be poised to make a playoff run.

Wingate (8-3) tied a school record for wins, but SAC Coach of the Year Joe Reich must replace 1,000-yard receiver Rodney Williams.

Another SAC team, **Catawba** (7-4), will try to return to the playoffs behind defensive lineman Kolby Fisher, who had 10 sacks.

Saginaw Valley (7-3) slipped in 2004, but still managed to beat Grand Valley State 31-20 in the regular season. Quarterback Mark

Radlinski is gone, but the defense should be stout behind linebacker John DiGiorgio (110 tackles).

Carlton Brewster caught 81 passes for 1,230 yards and eight TDs as **Ferris State** (6-5) recorded a winning season for the ninth time in 13 seasons.

The return of Devin Conwell (118 tackles) and Allen Lattimore (88 tackles, 18 for loss), along with Kent State transfer Luke Busson, means **Ashland** (5-6) should have one of the best linebacking corps in the GLIAC.

Bloomsburg (7-3) coach Danny Hale needs five wins to hit the 100-victory mark with the Huskies, who feature one of the top offensive linemen in the country in Jahri Evans.

Slippery Rock (4-7) will try to break the .500 mark behind offensive stars Josh Kniess and Nat Crookshank.

With 15 starters returning, including running back Antoine Bagwell, **California of Pennsylvania** looks to be a team on the rise, while **Indiana of Pennsylvania** (7-3) has 16 returning starters, including its entire offensive line.

Nebraska-Kearney (5-6) will try to bounce back from its first losing season in eight years after injuries at quarterback slowed the Lopers last season. The Lopers used four quarterbacks in '04, but Marcus Goldstein and Casey Samuelson return to battle for the starting job after sustaining arm injuries.

Southern Arkansas (5-6) coach Steve Quinn hopes the return of Jabari Woods from academic problems will provide a one-two punch at quarterback with 2004 starter Damian Melancon, who rushed for a team-high 671 yards and six TDs and threw for 1,666 yards and 15 TDs.

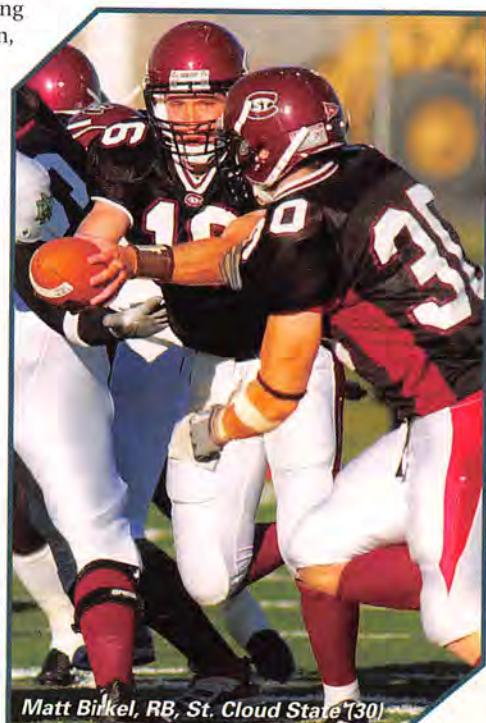
No team fell faster last season than **North Alabama** (5-5), which was a playoff semifinalist in 2003. Anthony Merritt, one of the top kick returners in the country, is moving from defense to offense.

For the first time in more than 25 years, **Angelo State** (2-9) begins a new era under coach Dale Carr, who takes over for the retired Jerry Vandergriff. Carr, who comes to ASU from Tyler (Texas) Junior College, has 15 returning starters to work with.

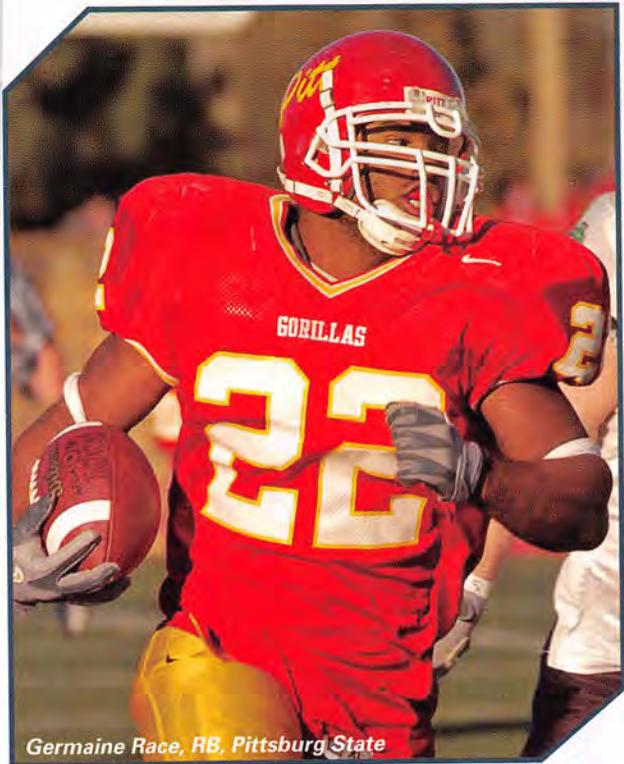
Missouri Western (5-6) has a brutal schedule that includes four playoff teams from 2004. Junior defensive lineman Michael Cobbs had 17 tackles for loss and six sacks.

Missouri Southern (5-6) returns eight starters from an offense that averaged 31 points per game, including QB Nathan Emert, who threw for 3,406 yards and 24 touchdowns as a true freshman.

Fairmont State (5-5) features one of the top ground games in the West Virginia



Matt Birkel, RB, St. Cloud State (30)



Germaine Race, RB, Pittsburg State

Intercollegiate Athletic Conference with running backs Wendell Johnson (1,240 yards, 10 TDs) and Jo Jo Parker (709, 8).

With 15 returning starters, **Bentley** (8-2) is looking to make its third consecutive playoff appearance. Replacing QB Marc Eddy (D2-record 121 career TD passes) and wide receiver Dallas Mall (college-record 78 TD catches) will be a tough chore.

Bryan Collins sports a 65-14 record in seven seasons as coach at **C.W. Post** (8-3). Defensively, defensive end Damien Gilyard is coming off an amazing season at any level—27.5 tackles for loss and 19.5 sacks.

Merrimack (8-3) wide receiver Elfren Quiles set a NCAA freshman receiving mark with 88 catches for 1,406 yards and 14 TDs.

Southern Connecticut (8-2) has a solid nucleus of returning players, but to match last year's record must find a quarterback to replace Mike Abate, who set a school record with 28 TD passes.

Central Washington (8-4) will rely on wide receiver Brian Potucek, who caught 68 passes in eight games, to challenge in the Great Northwest Athletic Conference.

Humboldt State (5-5) adds eight transfers – including offensive lineman Brett Battle, who played on the team in 1997-1998 before leaving school, and cornerback Chris Weingarten, who served a stint in the U.S. Air Force.

Coach Rob Smith became the first **Western Washington** (6-4) coach to win 100 games, and will get started towards 200 wins with a good pass-catch combination in QB James Monrean and wide receiver Andy Olson, who caught 15 touchdown passes in 2004.

Coach Willie Fritz has guided **Central Missouri State** (7-4) to seven straight seven-win seasons. But the Fighting Mules must replace running backs Lee Thompson (1,022 yards, 16 TDs) and Kegan Coleman (767, 12).

Bemidji State (7-3) has two excellent offensive performers to build on in Nathan Sannes (21 TD passes) and Tyler Olson (1,234 rushing yards, 15 TDs).

James McNear set three school records at **Concordia-St. Paul** (7-4). McNear threw 14 touchdown passes and ran for 10 more.

Adams State (7-4) won seven straight after an 0-3 start on the way to the school's best season in 15 years. Adam McGurk, who had 126 tackles, anchors a defense that was ranked 12th nationally.

Shepherd (7-3) rebounded from an 0-3 start to win its final seven games and the West Virginia Intercollegiate Athletic Conference title. The Rams should be good defensively with the return of Andre Henderson, who had 12 sacks and 29 tackles for loss. Dan Peters had a team-high six interceptions, including two for touchdowns.

The Rams could be challenged in the WVIAC by **Glenville State** (5-6), which started 0-4 last year but won five of seven to close the season.

North Carolina Central (8-2) didn't miss out on a CIAA title by much, losing twice by a total of 11 points. Senior quarterback Adrian Walker returns after throwing 20 touchdown passes. Also back is his favorite receiver, Torey Ross, who caught 11 of those scoring strikes.

2005 DIVISION 2 ALL-AMERICA TEAM

OFFENSE

| Pos. | Name | Size | Class | School |
|------|--------------------------|-----------|-------|--------------------------|
| QB | Jimmy Terwilliger | 5-11, 190 | Jr. | East Stroudsburg |
| RB | Germaine Race | 5-11, 225 | Jr. | Pittsburg State |
| RB | Danny Woodhead | 5-8, 185 | So. | Chadron State |
| RB | Andre Burke | 5-10, 205 | Sr. | Edinboro |
| OL | Jahri Evans | 6-4, 340 | r-Sr. | Bloomsburg |
| OL | Chris Kuper | 6-4, 320 | Sr. | North Dakota |
| OL | Greg Bzorek | 6-6, 318 | Sr. | Edinboro |
| OL | Chad Weeks | 6-3, 334 | Sr. | Pittsburg State |
| TE | Josh Rogers | 6-3, 228 | Jr. | Arkansas Tech |
| WR | Brandon Simmons | 6-0, 190 | Sr. | West Chester |
| WR | Justin Gallas | 6-1, 180 | Sr. | Colorado School of Mines |
| WR | Von Mixon | 5-9, 180 | Sr. | Arkansas-Monticello |
| RS | Anthony Merritt | 6-0, 180 | Jr. | North Alabama |
| PK | Scott Greene | 6-2, 200 | Sr. | Grand Valley State |

DEFENSE

| Pos. | Name | Size | Class | School |
|------|--------------------------|-----------|-------|--------------------------|
| DL | Tim Thompson | 6-4, 240 | Sr. | Valdosta State |
| DL | Steve Williams | 6-3, 300 | Sr. | Northwest Missouri State |
| DL | Damien Gilyard | 6-4, 225 | Jr. | C.W. Post |
| DL | Ryan Meredith | 6-2, 227 | Jr. | Pittsburg State |
| LB | Deandrea Fillmore | 5-9, 216 | Sr. | Texas A&M-Kingsville |
| LB | Digger Anderson | 6-0, 236 | Sr. | North Dakota |
| LB | Taiwo Onatolu | 6-2, 215 | Sr. | Nebraska-Omaha |
| LB | Adam McGurk | 6-1, 205 | Sr. | Adams State |
| DB | Matt Crispell | 6-2, 205 | Jr. | East Stroudsburg |
| DB | Brent Grimes | 5-10, 177 | Sr. | Shippensburg |
| DB | Anthony Hicks | 5-10, 180 | Jr. | Fayetteville State |
| DB | Mitchell Denne | 6-2, 175 | Jr. | St. Cloud State |
| P | Jeff Williams | 6-4, 215 | Sr. | Adams State |

>>> DIVISION III

Don't look now, but new powers are turning D3 championship pursuit into a Western showdown

By Mike Goens

Florence (Ala.) Times Daily

The National Collegiate Athletic Association has been recognizing football champions in Division III for 32 years. Until recently, you didn't have to look very far to find the hometown of those champs.

For the most part, they have virtually all come from the Midwest or East. Having a champion residing much further west than the Mississippi River region was unheard of until five years ago.

Now, there appears to be a shift of power.

Two of the past five champs have come from about as far west as possible. Pacific Lutheran of Washington and Linfield College of Oregon now have their names on NCAA championship trophies. And there are others, like Occidental College of California, on the rise as well.

"We're kind of loaners out here," Linfield coach Jay Locey says. "You don't hear a lot about teams from the West Coast; it's more about the Midwest and Northeast. But there are good teams and good competition out here."

Locey adds Pacific Lutheran's championship season in 1999 changed the dynamics of Division III.

"PLU, doing what they did by coming out of nowhere, earned respect for teams on the West Coast," Locey says. "It gave us great confidence."

Linfield won three national championships in the NAIA division (1982, '84 and '86) and the switch to NCAA Division III was completed in 1998. The Wildcats' history of performance includes 49 consecutive winning seasons.

"We're getting over that bias," says Occidental coach Dale Widolff, who has been with the Tigers since 1982. "There are only 12 or 14 schools out here that play Division III, and there has been a lack of respect for the caliber of competition here. Our league hasn't done well in the playoffs in the past, but part of it is that we've usually had to travel. I see that changing."

TOP 25

Linfield is certainly considered a contender to repeat as champions, a feat that has become increasingly tougher in a dramatically more competitive division. The Wildcats, a perfect 13-0 last year, have eight starters back on defense, but it's the six back on offense that have everyone in Oregon excited.

Quarterback Brett Elliott was all-everything in 2004. He threw 61 touchdown passes, the most-ever in a single season by a college quarterback. Elliott, a transfer from Division I Utah, had 4,595 passing yards and only 11 interceptions in 437 attempts.

"Brett was the starter at Utah, broke his wrist in the second game and lost his starting position," Locey says. "He got his release and we're certainly pleased to have him. He's a high-profile athlete."

Two senior receivers who combined for 139 catches, 2,174 yards and 33 TDs last year—Casey Allen and Brandon Hazenberg—are also back. Allen was the big-play gun last year in what Locey calls an "ace-back offense." The attack averaged 510.8 yards and 50 points a game last year. The bad news is that only center Dwight Donaldson and tackle Jake Lucey are back on the offensive line, and a new running back must be found.

All four linemen return on defense along with both linebackers, including Brandon Olson (110 tackles). The question on that side of the ball will be the play of new cornerbacks.

Even with the emergence of Linfield, most people familiar with Division III will still tell you **Mount Union** will remain the team to beat for the foreseeable future. And it makes sense.

The Purple Raiders have advanced to at least the national semifinals for 10 consecutive seasons. They have won seven national championships since 1993 and have a 104-game regular season winning streak. Coach Larry Kehres has won 91.4 percent of his games as he enters his 20th season at Mount Union.

With issues unsettled at the skilled positions, the offense will be built around a veteran line that features tackle Tom Manning. The quarterback will come from competition involving senior Randy Mason and junior Mike Jorris, as the duo attempted just 27 passes between them in 2004. Junior Aaron Robinson will likely become the featured back, along with fullback Kelechi Ibeh. Scott Casto will likely be the featured receiver.

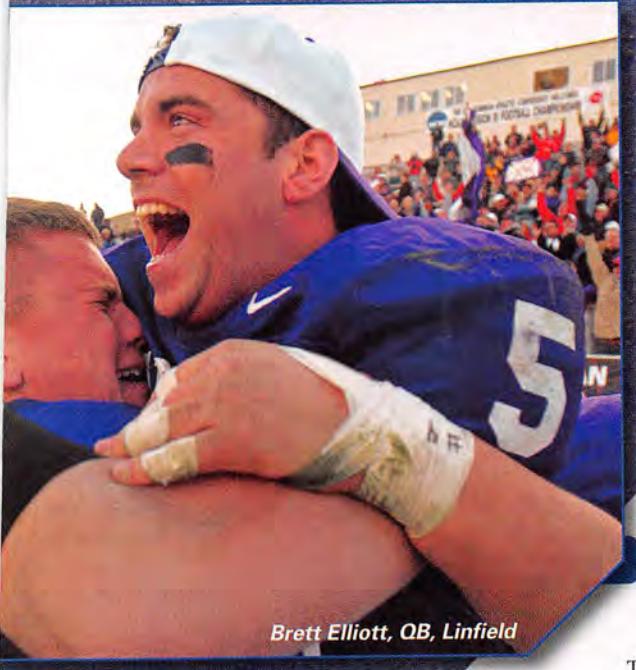
Kehres likes his defense, which will rely on the play of tackle Jesse Wells, cornerback Ross Watson, ends Justen Stickley and Greg Brauer, linebacker Matt Gibbons and strong safety Ken Whitfield.

Rowan has many weapons and could be in a position to make it back to the championship game for the sixth time since 1993. The Profs are still searching for their first national title.

Quarterback Mike Orihel, a junior, was superb last year as he tossed for 3,244 yards and 40 TDs. He passed for at least four touchdowns in six games, and managed to rush for five more scores. Sakeen Wright, a transfer from East Carolina, grabbed 64 passes for 853 yards and 16 TDs. He returns, along with Phil Silva, who had 46 catches. On defense, the Profs will be solid up front with Brian Bond (10 sacks), Keith Heimerl (9) and linebacker Randy Tosh (93 tackles).

St. John's took a rare break from the playoffs last year with a second-place conference finish. But don't expect the Johnnies, under legendary coach John Gagliardi, to be down long. Gagliardi has more wins than any collegiate coach (421) and led his team to the national title in 2003. He will be entering his 57th season.

The team will be built around defense, with eight starters back. Tackle Jason Good returns after delivering 16 tackles for loss, including 12.5 sacks. Nose tackle Damien Dumonceaux (63 tackles), end Kevin McNamara (9.5 sacks), linebacker Jamie Steffensmeier and cornerback Tony Steffensmeier (two interception returns for



Brett Elliott, QB, Linfield

PRESEASON TOP 25

1. Linfield
2. Mount Union
3. Rowan
4. Saint John's
5. Mary Hardin-Baylor
6. Washington & Jefferson
7. Delaware Valley
8. Ohio Northern
9. Occidental
10. Hardin-Simmons
11. Wittenberg
12. Trinity (Texas)
13. Bridgewater
14. Salisbury
15. Wisconsin-La Crosse
16. St. Norbert
17. Wheaton (Ill.)
18. Alma
19. Muhlenberg
20. Carthage
21. St. John Fisher
22. Olivet
23. Wisconsin-Eau Claire
24. Capital
25. Whitworth

SAM DEAN / AP/WIDE WORLD PHOTOS

GAMES TO WATCH

| | |
|----------|--------------------------------------|
| Sept. 3 | St. John's at Wisconsin-Eau Claire |
| Sept. 3 | Rowan at Christopher Newport |
| Sept. 24 | DePauw at Trinity (Texas) |
| Oct. 8 | Linfield at Whitworth |
| Oct. 15 | Albright at Delaware Valley |
| Oct. 22 | Mary Hardin-Baylor at Hardin-Simmons |
| Oct. 22 | Ohio Northern at Mount Union |
| Nov. 5 | Alma at Albion |
| Nov. 12 | Augustana at Wheaton |

TDs) are all big-play performers. And the Johnnies' offense should be much improved, with seven starters back. Sophomore quarterback Alex Kofoed threw for 2,009 yards and 20 scores last year. Running back Mike Lofboom is a threat running and receiving.

The football program at **Mary Hardin-Baylor** is only eight years old, but the Crusaders are already making noise. They are 49-7 over the past five seasons and advanced to the Stagg Bowl last year, losing to Linfield by a touchdown. Fourteen of last year's starting 22 players, including eight on defense, return.

The Crusaders like to run the ball, averaging 342.1 running yards a game. Three proven tailbacks are back in Justin Bryson (1,869 yards, 15 TDs), Freddie Rollins (1,070, 13) and Anthony Carter (537, 7). Leading receiver P.J. Williams is also back, along with quarterbacks Andy Padron and Josh Welch, who complement each other nicely. Free safety Josh Kubiak (100 tackles, 4 interceptions) leads an experienced defense.

Washington & Jefferson has been the ringleader in the Presidents' Athletic Conference and will likely continue to do so this season, with eight starters on offense and seven on defense returning from a 12-1 squad. The combination of quarterback Chris Edwards to receiver Aaron Krepps will be among the nation's best. Krepps grabbed 70 passes for 979 yards and 15 scores a year ago and can make things happen running the ball and returning kicks, too. Edwards passed for 38 TDs and 3,307 yards last season.

On defense, Nick Cherish, a transfer from West Virginia, will be heard from often. He had six interceptions in 2004. Three of the top five tacklers on defense are gone.

In a blink of an eye, **Delaware Valley** has become a force in Division III. The Aggies were 2-8 in 2002 and are now national contenders following back-to-back seasons of 9-2 and 12-1, respectively. They return nine starters on offense and eight on defense. The offense, which delivered six fourth-quarter comebacks a year ago, is led by senior quarterback Adam Knoblauch, who passed for 3,235 yards and rushed for 420. He accounted for 36 touchdowns. Receivers David Carmon (78 catches, 1,159 yards) and Don Marshall (50, 1,030) are keys and tailback Steve Cook rushed for 1,470 yards and 14 TDs. Anthony Silver and Matt Wallick are strong up front on defense.

Ohio Northern, like other members of the Ohio Athletic Conference, often gets lost in the hoopla surrounding conference rival Mount Union. But the Polar Bears could threaten to wrestle away the league title this year. They won seven of their last eight games a year ago, losing only to Mount Union. Ten starters are back from a defense that allowed 302.5 yards a game. Defensive end Jason Trusnik could be the best defensive player in the country. He led the nation in sacks (18) and tackles for loss (31). He finished with 101 tackles, three forced fumbles and four fumble recoveries.

Defensive backs Wes Hostetler and Rusty Midlam are key returnees, as is linebacker Rick Danison. All-conference performers at quarterback, running back and receiver are gone, but there are high hopes for quarterback Adam Quirk, who had seven total TDs last year. Derreck Garrod will step in at running back and Brian Lee is the top receiver. The entire offensive line is back.

A year ago, **Occidental** recorded its first playoff win since 1985 and has plenty of experience—nine starters on both sides of the ball—back from a 10-win season. There are plenty of weapons

back on offense, including quarterback Andy Collins (2,373 passing yards and 24 TDs). The Tigers return players who were responsible for 1,898 of the 2,498 passing yards last season and four seniors on the line. The defense will revolve around linebacker Mike Bryant, the league's top defensive player.

Offense has been a trademark for **Hardin-Simmons** and there are many weapons back from a unit that gained nearly 508 yards a game. But Cowboy fans could be talking more about defense this year, with eight starters back. End Reggie Robinson had 12 sacks a year ago, and Nivek Hatcher and Anthony Thomas are solid. Cornerback Will Galusha had eight interceptions. The Cowboys do have talent on offense as usual, even though only five starters return. Guard Joseph Hernandez and tackle Tye Conry are exceptional up front, and they will be counted on to protect senior quarterback Jordan Neal, a three-year starter who will likely leave with all of the school's passing records. He completed 66.4 percent of his passes a year ago. Jared May will be a big-play receiver and kick returner.

Having seasons of 8-2 and 7-3 would be acceptable at many schools, but **Wittenberg**—Division III's all-time winningest program—considers the past two seasons to be "down years." But 17 starters and 55 lettermen return. The offense scored 40 points a game last year and have nine starters back, including quarterback Ryan Holmes. He will lead an explosive offense that includes tailback Tristan Murray (1,320 yards and 21 total TDs) and receiver Jered Glover, who led the team in receptions last season. The defense must improve and eight starters are back. Three starters return to the line and secondary, while two linebackers return. The Tigers also have a solid kicking game.

Trinity has established a dynasty within the Southern Collegiate Athletic Conference, having won 12 straight titles. The Tigers, who have also appeared in eight straight playoffs, have only five starters back on offense and defense. Yet the expectations continue, with the Texas school's leading rusher and receiver returning along with three offensive linemen. Jacob Cannon's play at quarterback will be critical after he threw only 26 passes last season. Receiver Robert Kelner can hurt you catching the ball and returning kicks. Jerrold Jones topped 1,000 rushing yards last year, averaging 112.1 a game. Dustin Allen is back to lead the defense after turning in 18 tackles for loss.

Bridgewater hasn't lost a conference game in four years and will be favored to

duplicate the feat again this year, with a wealth of experience back. On defense, 17 of the top 22 on the depth chart are back, including seven starters. There also are 16 of the top 22 offensive players back. The key will be the play at quarterback, where Jacob Lewis and Jeff Highfill will inherit the starting role. Tailbacks Winston Young and

Marcus Washington both have 1,000-yard potential. Brian Awkard is a big-play threat as a receiver and kick returner. Safety Adrian Herndon and end Antonio Burt are forces on defense.

Few teams have been as successful as **Salisbury** in recent years. The Sea Gulls went 10-1 a year ago and have won 26 of their last 31 games. They have eight starters back on offense and seven on defense. Running back Leroy Satchell will be a key to the offensive success after rushing for 1,259 yards and scoring 15 times. Dustin Johnson also returns at quarterback, along with three starting linemen. The defense allowed only 13.1 points a game last year, and end Andrew Deming and cornerback Byron Westbrook (8 INTs) both return.

Despite losing 22 seniors and 13 of the 22 starters, **Wisconsin-La Crosse** remains the team to beat in the competitive Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference. The Eagles, with 532 wins in 92 seasons, rank second in Division III in all-time winning percentage at .688. Defense will be critical to success this year, with free safety Kenneth Halvorson (79 tackles and four fumble recoveries) and cornerback Steve Teebles (7 INTs) back to lead the effort. Quarterback Steve Tennies will be called on to lead the young offense and must reduce his interceptions. Corey Geldernick rushed for 959 yards a year ago and three offensive linemen return.

St. Norbert ran through its conference last year without a loss and has 14 of 22 starters back. Running back Casey Meehan will likely be the school's all-time rusher before leaving, coming off a season where he rushed for 1,286 yards and scored 25 total TDs. T.J. George grabbed 52 passes a year ago and three starters are back on the line. The key player on defense is Tony Mendina, who was second on the team in

tackles from the secondary.

Wheaton will turn to its defense as it tries to continue its dominance in the College Conference of Illinois and Wisconsin. The Thunder will try to win its fourth league title within five years, and seven quality performers are back on defense.

Free safety Todd Travis had 71 tackles and

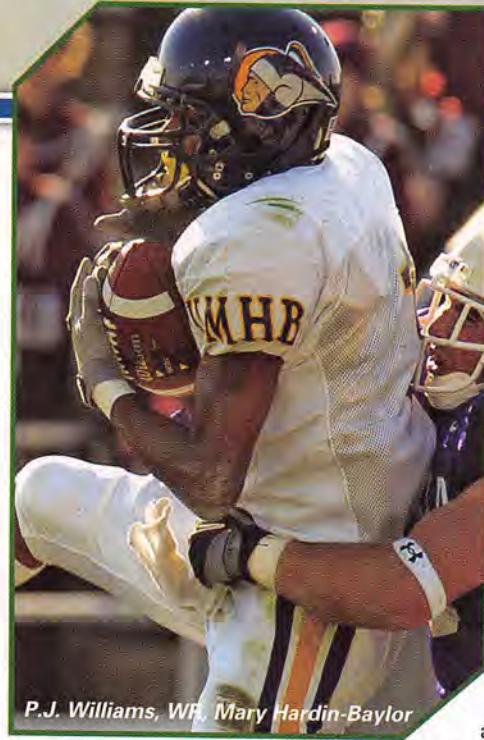
five interceptions a year ago, and middle linebacker Jeff Grandy is back from injury. Only three starters return on offense, but quarterback Jeremy Chupp is one of them.

The **Alma** offense had a lot of fun last season with its four-receiver attack known as "Scot-Gun," setting a school record with 4,836 yards of total offense. The fun should continue with eight starters back, including quarterback Josh Brehm. He threw for 3,145 yards and 29 TDs a year ago. The receiving twins combo of Tyler and Cole Thelen are back, along with the entire offensive line. Five starters are back on defense, with safety Chad Abbey leading the way after returning three interceptions for scores.

No one played defense better than **Muhlenberg** last year. The Mules surrendered only 195.5 yards per game, which led all NCAA divisions. Eight starters are back to the unit, led by ends Dan McCall and Tom Wargacki (9.5 tackles for loss and four fumble recoveries) and cornerbacks Justin Adair and Mike McCurley. The offense must show dramatic improvement after a low-scoring '04 season, and a new quarterback will be added to the mix.

Carthage needed one season to turn a 3-7 season into an 11-2 team that advanced to the national quarterfinals. But the offensive workhorse, Dante Washington, is gone after 463 carries last season. In fact, only four starters are back on offense. Fortunately, the Redmen have 10 starters back on defense, including six all-conference performers. Linebacker Brandon Fox and cornerback Brett Barnes delivered big plays all season and return.

Running back Mark Robinson will be counted on to carry **St. John Fisher** back to the playoffs. He rushed for 2,194 yards and scored 25 total touchdowns as a sophomore last season. Noah Fehrenbach had nearly 1,000 receiving yards and had 12 TDs.



P.J. Williams, WR, Mary Hardin-Baylor

however, a new quarterback will be needed to stabilize the offense. Steve Stepnick is one of only four returning defensive starters.

Olivet could be a favorite to represent Michigan in the playoffs. The Fighting Comets were 8-2 and have nine starters on both offense and defense back. The Wing-T offense, which piled up 17.1 rushing yards per game, returns all five starters on the line, along with running back Travis Sleight. The Comets had 678 rushing yards against Ohio Wesleyan. A new quarterback is needed, and Marcus Robinson could be the solution. The defense was much better in the latter half of the season and has plenty of experience back.

Wisconsin-Eau Claire could be the team that replaces rival La Crosse if the Eagles falter. The key will be finding a consistent performer at quarterback. Jesse Krzyzanowski is the likely replacement, and he will call on tailback Joe Gast (915 yards and 10 TDs). Matt Evensen and Tony Hull are key receiving targets. The Blugolds are set on defense, with linebacker Jared Roeker back to lead the way, while all four members of the secondary return.

Capital has a big weapon in quarterback Rocky Pentello, who passed for nearly 260 yards per game in 2004. Three of the top four receivers are back, along with all of the key runners and three offensive linemen. On defense, three of the four starters in the secondary, including Kyle Hausler (7 INTs) return, as do all three linebackers and both ends.

Offense has become essential to success on the West Coast and **Whitworth** has plenty of big-play performers. Quarterback Joel Clark passed for 2,289 yards and 18 TDs, Jared Thomas had 50 catches and running back Kyle Hovercraft scored 11 rushing touchdowns.

BEST OF THE REST

Running back Dan Hammes can lead **Wartburg** into the playoffs if he can duplicate his 1,000-plus-yard season. Linebacker Alex Pollack and end Noah Junge lead the defense. **Christopher Newport** has made four consecutive trips to the playoffs and is expected to continue the pace behind quarterback Hudson Bryant, who had 20 TDs a year ago.

Augustana has potential to be very good offensively with nine starters back, including tackle Mike Zeifert and quarterback

Matt Roe, who will direct the triple-option attack. **Johns Hopkins** has 63 lettermen back from a 9-2 squad, including nine defensive starters. Matt Hagel, Mike Barrasso and Max Whitacre lead the defensive unit.

Shenandoah made the playoffs last year and has 15 starters back, including all-conference performers at fullback, tailback, tight end and two line spots. Fourteen players who made at least one start are back on defense. **Curry** goes for its third straight playoff berth and has seven starters back on offense and defense.

The defense could carry **Adrian** back to the playoffs as end Mike Lewis (14 sacks), defensive back Dan McKeown (14 career interceptions) and linebacker Taz Wallace (155 tackles) are all solid. The unit allowed 13.8 points per game last year. Defense will also be critical for **Hobart** as the Statesmen try to win the league title for the fourth consecutive year. Jamie Anderson and Tony Clemente lead the defense, but quarterback Shawn Mizro is one of only three starters back on offense. **DePauw** could be ready to unseat Trinity in the Southern Collegiate Athletic Conference. Eight starters return from a defense that yielded 56 points during the final five games. Quarterback Ross Wiethoff leads the offense.

Quarterback John Port (3,799 yards and 35 TDs) and linebacker Pete Manotti (107 tackles) will make **Albright** a contender. **North Central** could be the sleeper in the Midwest, with 10 defensive and eight offensive starters back, including the passing tandem of Kam Kniss (62 percent pass completion rate, 2,446 yards and 20 TDs) and Tyke Spencer (81 catches, 1,306 yards). **Bridgewater State** has 20 of 22 starters back, including running back Brenden Kavey (1,310 yards) and will be favored in the New England Football Conference. Experience will also be key for **Simpson**, with 19 starters back. Dusty Kain had 76 catches for 1,000 yards a year ago.

Lakeland College could surprise many, with 20 of 22 starters back from a 7-3 squad, including the entire backfield and offensive line from a unit that rushed for 318 yards per game. Quarterback Mike Schmidtke (23 TD passes) and tailback Peter Ereg (1,485 rushing yards) will lead **MacMurray**'s bid to win the Illini-Badger Conference. **Texas Lutheran** improved from 2-8 to 7-3 last year and has 10 defensive starters and quarterback Sean Salinas back. **Moravian** gained 404.6 yards a game last season and has 10 starters back, including running back Chris Jacoubs (1,789 and 16 TDs).

2005 DIVISION 3 ALL-AMERICA TEAM

OFFENSE

| Pos. | Name | Size | Class | School |
|------|------------------------|-----------|-------|--------------------|
| WR | <i>Casey Allen</i> | 6-3, 220 | Sr. | Linfield |
| WR | <i>David Carmon</i> | 6-2, 185 | Jr. | Delaware Valley |
| OL | <i>Tom Manning</i> | 6-1, 277 | Sr. | Mount Union |
| OL | <i>Rick Drushal</i> | 6-4, 310 | Jr. | Wooster |
| OL | <i>Michael Loiseau</i> | 6-4, 283 | Sr. | Rowan |
| OL | <i>Mike Zeifert</i> | 6-1, 235 | Sr. | Augustana |
| OL | <i>Josh Van Laan</i> | 6-3, 225 | Jr. | Olivet |
| TE | <i>Jon Branche</i> | 6-3, 220 | Jr. | Rensselaer |
| QB | <i>Brett Elliott</i> | 6-3, 200 | Sr. | Linfield |
| RB | <i>Mark Robinson</i> | 5-11, 215 | Jr. | St. John Fisher |
| RB | <i>Justin Bryson</i> | 5-8, 195 | Sr. | Mary Hardin-Baylor |
| PK | <i>Cam Collings</i> | 6-1, 177 | Sr. | Whitworth |

DEFENSE

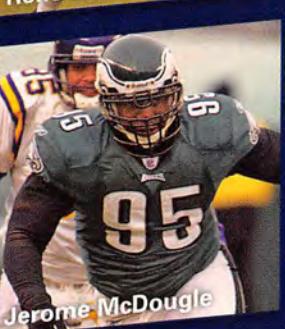
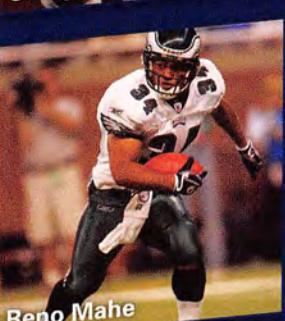
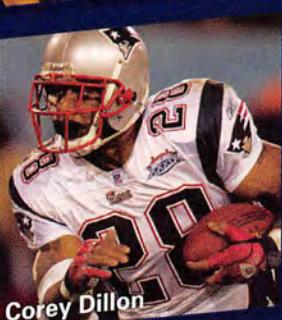
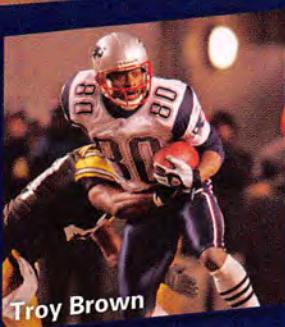
| Pos. | Name | Size | Class | School |
|------|------------------------|-----------|-------|-----------------|
| DL | <i>Jason Trusnik</i> | 6-5, 230 | Sr. | Ohio Northern |
| DL | <i>Jason Good</i> | 6-0, 240 | Sr. | St. John's |
| DL | <i>Mike Lewis</i> | 6-2, 240 | Sr. | Adrian |
| DL | <i>Jason Ripke</i> | 6-4, 231 | Sr. | Simpson |
| LB | <i>Lenny Radtke</i> | 6-1, 210 | Sr. | North Central |
| LB | <i>Taz Wallace</i> | 6-1, 225 | Jr. | Adrian |
| LB | <i>Mike Bryant</i> | 6-3, 220 | Sr. | Occidental |
| DB | <i>Kyle Hausler</i> | 5-9, 165 | Sr. | Capital |
| DB | <i>Will Galusha</i> | 5-8, 175 | Jr. | Hardin-Simmons |
| DB | <i>Brett Bueltel</i> | 6-4, 205 | Jr. | Rose-Hulman |
| DB | <i>Byron Westbrook</i> | 5-10, 185 | Jr. | Salisbury |
| P | <i>Kevin Soflkiacs</i> | 5-9, 175 | So. | Baldwin-Wallace |

JUNIOR COLLEGE REPORT

(Deion) Branches don't fall far from the tree in the juco ranks where College of the Canyons looks to be the best of the bunch



Last year's Super Bowl featured seven players who at one time attended junior college, including Philadelphia's Reno Mahe and Jerome McDougle, as well as three Patriot players who had a big role in the Pats' win: tailback Corey Dillon, WR/CB Troy Brown and Super Bowl MVP Deion Branch.



By Tony Jimenez
Topeka (Kan.) Capital-Journal

Whatever you do, don't get coach Parker Dykes of Jones County Junior College in Ellisville, Miss., started on New England Patriots star Deion Branch, junior college football's latest and greatest claim to fame. In Dykes' eyes, Branch was nothing short of the perfect juco student-athlete. He was that way when he arrived on campus, stayed that way for two seasons in the late 1990s and left that way.

On and off the field.

Branch honed his skills as a wide receiver at obscure Jones County before going on to Louisville and then to New England, where he won MVP honors in last year's Super Bowl.

"Deion was one great kid here," recalls Dykes, a former player at Jones (1961-62) who begins his 14th season at the school and his 41st in coaching. "He was always smiling and friendly. Everybody on campus liked him."

Branch was far from the only former JC player in the biggest of football games, the Super Bowl. Others included New England's Troy Brown (Lees-McRae, N.C.), Corey Dillon (Garden City, Kan., and Dixie State, Utah) and Keith Traylor (Coffeyville, Kan.) and Philadelphia's Reno Mahe (Dixie State), Jermaine Mayberry (Navarro, Texas) and Jerome McDougle (Hinds, Miss.).

"Seven former JC players in the Super Bowl speaks for itself," says Hank Ives of JC Grid Wire, the nation's foremost junior-college scouting service. "That's a pretty impressive number. The JCs have proved themselves over the years, and they did again with this showing."

So, where do we look for the next crop of juco players going to the Super Bowl? Check out this year's *Street & Smith's Junior College Top 25*:

1. College of the Canyons (Calif.), 14-0 in '04

Coach Chuck Lyon lived the dream of every coach in the country a year ago when his team posted a perfect record. It would be

realistic to expect his team to repeat the feat, but Lyon's Cougars—25-1 the past two seasons—have carved out a nice niche among the elite in the nation's two-year-school ranks. Nine returning starters on offense or defense will provide the impetus for another big season for C of C, which operates a shotgun offense about 80 percent of the time. Look for running back Brandon Clayton, an electrifying runner, to pump plenty of life into that offense. Defensively, linebacker Joey LaRocque, who has above-average instincts and is a by-the-book tackler, and cornerback Justin Tryon, a speed merchant, are the pacesetters.

2. Pearl River

(Miss.) CC, 12-0

When fourth-year coach Tim Hatten arrived in Poplarville, it was only natural he recruit high school players from Florida (there are no football-playing JCs in the state) given he coached in the Haines City prep ranks for 14 years. Hatten has also found some ultra-athletic in-state players in making P.R. a feared team in the Southern juco ranks. Hatten has boosted his team's season record from 7-3 in 2002 to 10-1 in 2003 and to 12-0 and a National JC Athletic Association championship in 2004.

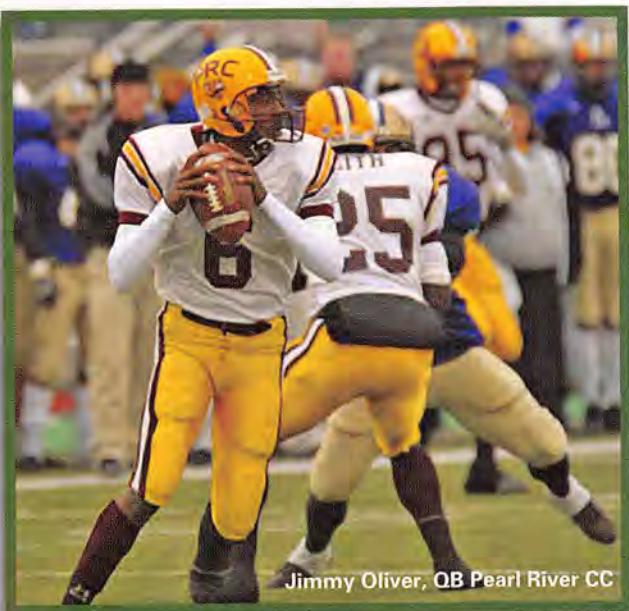
Thanks to the return of quarterback Jimmy Oliver, the NJCAA's Offensive Player of the Year as a freshman after having thrown for 3,487 yards (290.6 per game) and 40 TDs in 2004, the Wildcats will again be hard to beat. Other 'Cats to watch: defensive tackle Frank Harry, a fast 6-4, 280-pounder; defensive end Ben McGilton (6-3, 250), who has bench-pressed 395 pounds; and speedy running back Mike McClelland.

3. Butler County

(Kan.) CC, 11-1

Sixth-year coach Troy Morrell's not the kind of guy to sugarcoat anything, and that's why when he says this may be his best team ever in El Dorado, you better take notice. After all, the Cincinnati Bengals' Rudi Johnson played here in 1997-98. Morrell has amassed a 53-7 record at Butler, going 12-0 with an NJCAA championship in 2003 and 10-2 in each of the three seasons prior to that.

He's high on this year's Grizzlies because eight starters return (four on offense and four on defense). Look for running backs



Jimmy Oliver, QB Pearl River CC

Ryan Torain and Kenny Wilson, offensive tackle Sherrone Moore (6-6, 295) and defensive tackle Paul Griffin (6-0, 280) to have big sophomore seasons.

Torain (6-2, 210) and Wilson (6-1, 210) have good size and 4.4 40s. Moore has excellent athleticism and moves well for his size, while Griffin was one of only four freshmen to make first-team NJCAA All-America on defense last year.

4. City College of San Francisco

11-1

Coach George Rush begins his 29th season on the bay as part of a tradition-rich history. He was a freshman cornerback for the Rams when O.J. Simpson was a sophomore here in 1966. Since 1999, the Rams have a 68-3 record, going undefeated in 1999, 2000, 2001 and 2003. The wins should continue to mount. Maurice Purify, an athletic 6-foot-5, and Aaron Straiten, who has great hands, are big-time wide receivers. Linebacker Larry Grant may well be one of the school's best athletes ever.

San Francisco will have plenty of team speed to go with its usual prime-time work ethic, and it might be enough for another appearance in California's championship playoff game. Last year they lost in the title game to the College of the Canyons, 39-32.

5. Dixie State College of Utah

10-2

It could be as early as 2006, but the Rebels are expected to bow out of the JC ranks to join NCAA Division II. No matter where they play, Dixie State, which is loaded with speed and a big-time running game in 2005, will always be a team to be dealt with under coach Greg Croshaw.

With six returning starters on defense and five on offense, experience abounds. Linebackers Misi Tupe and Gene Fakatumafi are hard hitters with good

speed. Running back J.T. Diederichs, one of the best on the national JC circuit in recent years, rushed for 1,851 yards and 22 touchdowns as a freshman. His most impressive effort came in the Rotary Bowl, where he gained 150 yards in the second half despite playing with a broken foot. He'll have his path cleared by Kawika Vincent, a guy who is as tough as he is big (6-5, 285).

6. Grossmont CC

(Calif.), 11-1

If coaching experience translates into wins, Grossmont will win big, given Dave Jordan begins his 36th season at the helm with nothing but a history of success to lean on. Jordan has 10 returning starters this time around, including plenty of experience on the offensive line and in the secondary. Quarterback Reilly Murphy, a strong and intelligent player, highlights the list of returnees. He'll be good most of the time because he's operating behind linemen Jake Bingham (6-4, 325), who was at Arizona State last season but didn't play, and C.J. Bryant, a smart player with quick feet.

Defensively, the blue-chip prospects include lineman Brian Standbra, safety-turned-cornerback Mozique McCurtis and Devon Jones, who started at a corner as a freshman.

7. Butte CC

(Calif.), 9-2

The town of Oroville, located just 80 miles north of Sacramento, is so small it's not on a lot of maps of California. Make no mistake, however, as four-year-school coaches know the way there.

Butte has sent an average of about 15 players per season up the collegiate ladder, according to coach Craig Rigsbee, who has put in 15 years directing the school's football program.

With nine starters back on both offense and defense, plus a decent crop of freshmen, expect the Roadrunners to continue to prosper. Webster Patrick, a bruising, 5-9, 200-pounder, is the state's top returning statistical rusher. In 2004 he gained 1,940 yards, averaging 10.3 yards per carry in the regular season.

Among the expected defensive standouts are linebacker Judah Garrett (6-3, 230) and free safety Jameel Dowling (6-4, 200).

8. Saddleback CC

(Calif.), 11-2

While it may seem odd to have a 6-4, 325-pound deep snapper, as is the case with Ian Hammond, it's business as usual for one of the nation's most successful programs. With a rock-solid defense and some good leaders, the Gauchos are the real deal. For his part, Hammond is the best deep snapper coach Mark McElroy says he has ever had in his program. Hammond's also a large load to deal with from his slot on the offensive line.

Other expected standouts for Saddleback include wide receiver Quincy Lever, who

JUCO REPORT >>> BEST OF THE REST >>> TOP JUCOS MOVING ON

was recruited by Notre Dame out of Foothill High School in Tustin, Calif.; running back Daniel Dixon, a 5-8, 205-pound transfer from Cerritos (Calif.) College who has great vision and a knack for breaking tackles; a pair of Clarks (not related) at linebacker, Casey and Zach; and punter Andrew Larson, who had a 43-yard average as a freshman.

9. Trinity Valley CC

(Texas), 3-7

Don't be misled by Trinity Valley's record of a year ago, because third-year coach Mark Sartain, the school's offensive coordinator before taking charge, is finally going to see the fruits of his first back-to-back recruiting classes. And that bodes well for the Cardinals' following.

With 40 sophomores and a handful of redshirts on hand—among them seven offensive and five defensive starters—experience will be a big plus.

The best of the Cardinals' flock will most likely be Thomas Cook, an athletic quarterback with a strong arm. Wide receiver Torey Degrate (6-1, 180), a Texas A&M signee, is a big-play guy. Fullback Thurman Blake is best known for his vicious blocking, while defensive tackle Freddie Barnett (6-1, 310), an Arkansas signee, will see more than his share of double teams.

10. Scottsdale

(Ariz.) CC, 9-2

Coach Ken Giovando, who's been coaching here since 1972, is set to have his best team at Scottsdale, which has produced the likes of NFL players Charlie Garner and Tim Rattay. The school

now has another player Giovando says is destined to "play on Sundays and make millions" in defensive end Louis Holmes. The Miami native runs a 4.4 40, but his biggest asset, Giovando says, might be that he has his ego firmly in check. Other expected sophomore standouts on a team that returns 13 of 22 starters include hard-hitting safety Brandon Robertson and offensive tackle Devin Clark.

BEST OF THE REST

11. Coffeyville (Kan.) CC, 10-2
12. Glendale (Ariz.) CC, 6-4
13. Grand Rapids (Mich.) CC, 9-2
14. Fresno City (Calif.), 8-3
15. San Joaquin Delta (Calif.), 9-2
16. Kilgore (Texas), 10-2
17. Blinn (Texas), 9-2
18. Snow (Utah), 7-4
19. Jones County (Miss.) JC, 7-3
20. William Rainey Harper (Ill.), 9-2
21. Georgia Military (5-5)
22. Cerritos (Calif.), 3-7
23. Foothill (Calif.), 8-3
24. Northeast Oklahoma A&M, 4-5
25. El Camino CC (Calif.), 8-3

TOP JUCOS MOVING ON

OFFENSE >>>

| | | | Jucos (future school) |
|---------------------------|----|-----------|--|
| Joseph Ayoob | QB | 6-3, 215 | City College of San Francisco (California) |
| Eldra Buckley | RB | 6-0, 180 | Northwest, Miss. (Chattanooga) |
| Joe Harris | RB | 5-9, 190 | L.A. Harbor, Calif. (West Texas A&M) |
| Brandon Fractious | RB | 5-11, 195 | Chaffey, Calif. (East Carolina) |
| Jason Vandiver | TE | 6-3, 260 | Fullerton, Calif. (Oregon State) |
| Larry Brackins | WR | 6-5, 220 | Pearl River, Miss. (filed for NFL Draft) |
| Jerard Rabb | WR | 6-3, 205 | Saddleback, Calif. (Boise State) |
| Paul Fisher | OL | 6-8, 320 | Dixie State, Utah (Iowa St.) |
| Adam Hawes | OL | 6-7, 295 | Yuba City, Calif. (Arizona St.) |
| Palauni Ma Sun Jr. | OL | 6-6, 315 | Fresno City, Calif. (Oregon) |
| Brock Pasteur | OL | 6-6, 315 | Mesabi Range, Minn. (Nebraska) |

DEFENSE >>>

| | | | |
|--------------------------|----|----------|--|
| Ishmail Abdunafi | DL | 6-3, 290 | Bakersfield, Calif. (Illinois) |
| Gabe Long | DL | 6-3, 270 | Fullerton, Calif. (Southern California) |
| Dallas Mauga | DL | 6-1, 300 | Grossmont, Calif. (San Diego St.) |
| C.J. Ah You | DL | 6-4, 262 | Snow, Utah (Oklahoma) |
| Desmond Bishop | LB | 6-2, 240 | City College of San Francisco (California) |
| Anthony Kelly | LB | 6-3, 230 | Jones, Miss. (Florida St.) |
| Alain Karatepeyan | LB | 6-2, 245 | L.A. Pierce, Calif. (Tulsa) |
| Zachary Bowman | DB | 6-3, 210 | New Mexico Military (Nebraska) |
| Josh Gomez | DB | 6-0, 205 | Palomar, Calif. (San Diego St.) |
| John Guice | DB | 5-9, 185 | Grossmont, Calif. (UNLV) |
| Levance Richmond | DB | 6-0, 190 | Pearl River, Miss. (Southern Miss) |

SPECIALISTS >>>

| | | | |
|----------------------|----|-----------|---------------------------------------|
| Harrison Kush | RS | 5-10, 185 | Coffeyville, Kan. (Pittsburg St.) |
| Brian Pacheco | P | 5-11, 200 | Glendale, Ariz. (UNLV) |
| Robert Lee | PK | 5-10, 190 | Trinity Valley, Texas (East Carolina) |

SUPER SOPHOMORES

OFFENSE

| Name | POS | HT, WT | JUCO |
|-----------------|-----|----------|-------------------------------|
| Jimmy Oliver | QB | 6-0, 175 | Pearl River, Miss. |
| J.T. Diederichs | RB | 6-1, 225 | Dixie State, Utah |
| James Johnson | RB | 6-0, 190 | Blinn, Texas |
| Webster Patrick | RB | 5-9, 200 | Butte, Calif. |
| Aaron Munoz | TE | 6-6, 240 | Palomar, Calif. |
| Maurice Purify | WR | 6-5, 210 | City College of San Francisco |
| Eric McCain | WR | 6-5, 200 | Glendale, Ariz. |
| Ian Hammond | OL | 6-4, 325 | Saddleback, Calif. |
| Clarence Bailey | OL | 6-6, 315 | Lackawanna, Pa. |
| Larry So'oalo | OL | 6-3, 310 | Fresno City, Calif. |
| Adrian Brown | OL | 6-6, 350 | Hudson Valley, N.Y. |

DEFENSE

| Name | POS | HT, WT | JUCO |
|-------------|-----|----------|-------------------------|
| Aaron Tonga | L | 6-3, 270 | Mt. San Antonio, Calif. |

| Name | POS | HT, WT | JUCO |
|--------------------|-----|----------|-------------------------|
| Paul Griffin | DL | 6-0, 280 | Butler, Kan. |
| Louis Holmes | DL | 6-6, 273 | Scottsdale, Ariz. |
| Freddie Barnett | DL | 6-1, 310 | Trinity Valley, Texas |
| Misi Tupe | LB | 6-0, 235 | Dixie State, Utah |
| Antonio Steele | LB | 6-2, 215 | Long Beach City, Calif. |
| Antonio Richardson | LB | 6-1, 210 | Jones, Miss. |
| Nate Ness | DB | 6-1, 180 | El Camino, Calif. |
| Andre Jones | DB | 6-0, 195 | Fresno City, Calif. |
| Geoff Tisdale | DB | 6-2, 175 | L.A. Valley, Calif. |
| Chase Palmer | DB | 6-3, 210 | Snow, Utah |

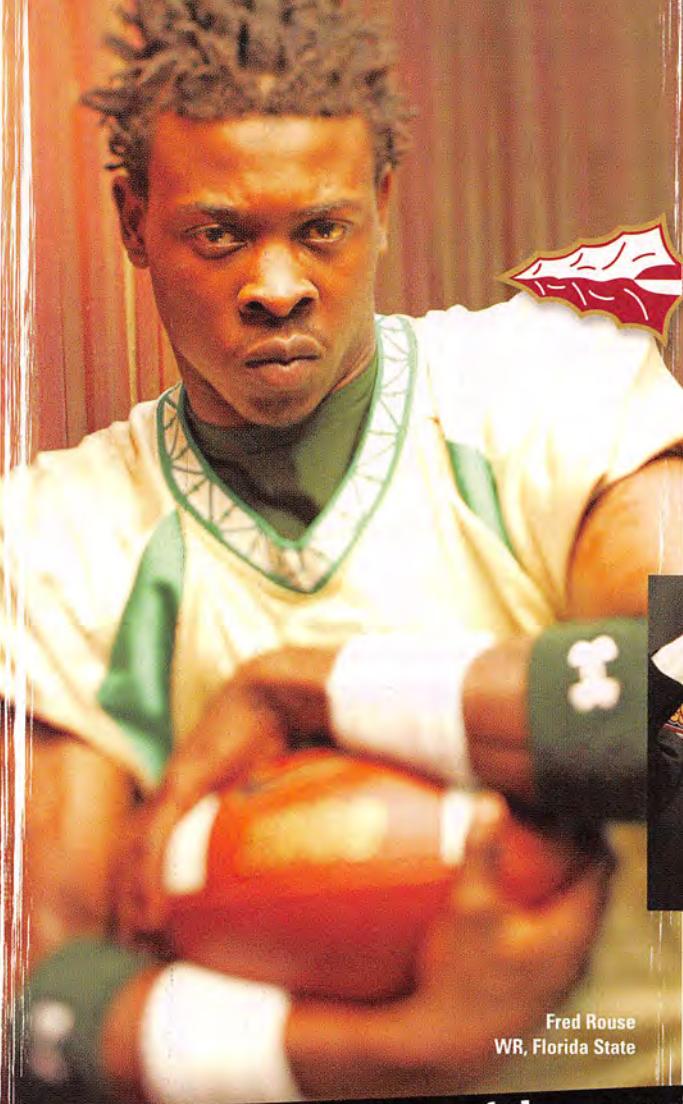
SPECIALISTS

| Name | POS | HT, WT | JUCO |
|---------------|-----|-----------|---------------------|
| Mike Bolio | RS | 6-0, 190 | L.A. Harbor, Calif. |
| Michael Cohen | P | 5-11, 200 | Kilgore, Texas |
| Luke Dreiling | PK | 5-9, 175 | Garden City, Kan. |

OTHERS >>

| | | | Juco (future school) |
|--------------------|----|-----------|--|
| Rodney Allen | L | 6-4, 268 | Garden City, Kan. (Kansas) |
| Deyontae Batiste | DL | 6-2, 343 | Iowa Central (SW Missouri St.) |
| Marcel Benson | OL | 6-7, 320 | San Diego Mesa, Calif. (Louisville) |
| Chip Brown | DL | 6-3, 270 | Kilgore, Texas (Texas A&M-Commerce) |
| Larry Brown | DL | 6-3, 295 | Georgia Military (Oklahoma St.) |
| Steve Burch | DT | 6-2, 280 | Dodge City, Kan. (Nebraska) |
| Joel Cohen | C | 6-0, 260 | DuPage, Ill. (Oregon St.) |
| Clayton Cox | LB | 6-3, 220 | Garden City, Kan. (Southern Methodist) |
| Sam Downs | OL | 6-3, 275 | Grossmont, Calif. (Idaho St.) |
| Dennis Ellis | DL | 6-4, 265 | College of the Canyons (Boise St.) |
| James Finley | WR | 6-3, 205 | Compton, Calif. (Oregon) |
| Chad Green | DL | 6-5, 220 | Hinds, Miss. (N.C. State) |
| Frantz Hardy | WR | 6-1, 180 | Butler, Kan. (Nebraska) |
| Aleem Harris | DB | 6-4, 215 | Chaffey, Calif. (New Mexico) |
| Jarrod Jackson | QB | 6-1, 205 | Grossmont, Calif. (Nevada-Las Vegas) |
| Emory Jones | WR | 6-4, 218 | NE Mississippi (Michigan St.) |
| Brandon Keith | OL | 6-6, 310 | NE Oklahoma A&M (Oklahoma) |
| Soli Lefiti | DL | 6-5, 255 | Palomar, Calif. (Utah) |
| Matthew Lott | OL | 6-3, 310 | Pearl River, Miss. (Baylor) |
| Beau Manutai | LB | 6-2, 240 | Dixie State, Utah (Arizona St.) |
| Chris Mauga | OL | 6-1, 305 | Butler, Kan. (Murray State) |
| Ryan McBean | DL | 6-5, 270 | Hinds, Miss. (Oklahoma State) |
| Edorian McCullough | DB | 5-11, 190 | City College of San Francisco (Oregon St.) |
| Fred McCutcheon | DL | 6-2, 290 | Long Beach, Calif. (San Jose St.) |
| Walter Nickel | TE | 6-4, 240 | Dixie State, Utah (Iowa State) |
| Deondrick Nunez | DB | 5-10, 170 | Snow, Utah (Friends University) |
| Mickey Pimental | LB | 6-2, 220 | Pima, Ariz. (California) |
| Louis Pintola | OL | 6-5, 310 | Pasadena, Calif. (Missouri) |
| Rasheed Prescott | DB | 5-9, 180 | Saddleback, Calif. (West Texas A&M) |
| Barry Quickstad | DB | 6-1, 206 | Rochester, Minn. (North Dakota State) |
| Jon Radford | LB | 6-1, 230 | NE Oklahoma A&M (Colorado St.) |
| Kerry Reed | WR | 6-3, 195 | Coffeyville, Kan. (Texas A&M) |
| J.K. Sabb | LB | 6-0, 235 | Georgia Military (Middle Tennessee) |
| Jonal Saint-Dic | DL | 6-1, 260 | Hudson Valley, N.Y. (Michigan St.) |
| Roy Sims | DL | 6-5, 280 | Gavilan, Calif. (Washburn) |
| Tyrell Smith | WR | 6-0, 180 | College of the Canyons (San Diego St.) |
| David Stanton | DL | 6-5, 270 | College of the Canyons (Michigan St.) |
| Zac Taylor | QB | 6-2, 210 | Butler, Kan. (Nebraska) |
| Allan Webster | RB | 6-1, 235 | Foothill, Calif. (San Jose St.) |
| Maurice White | DL | 6-4, 270 | Citrus, Calif. (Valdosta St.) |

TOP JUCOS MOVING ON



'Noles

on a roll

With 10 signees in the Top 100, Florida State has college football's top incoming recruiting class.

By Doug Huff

Florida State is No. 1 ... in the annual recruiting race.

The Seminoles showed why patience is a virtue in the talent chase by closing strong on Signing Day Feb. 2 to reel in the nation's most touted class of prospects.

The Atlantic Coast Conference member landed 10 players rated among the nation's Top 100 prospects, including eight in the final week prior to Signing Day. Overall, FSU signed 22 prospects.

With the sprint to the recruiting finish line, the Seminoles overtook Oklahoma, defending *Street & Smith's* recruiting "champion" Southern California, Tennessee and Nebraska for the No. 1 honors.



FSU coach Bobby Bowden landed the top recruiting class for 2005, including a playmaker in the speedy Fred Rouse.

In the final days of the recruiting "season," the Seminoles landed the following Top 100 prospects:



- Florida's Mr. Football honoree, running back Antone Smith of Pahokee, and wide receiver Fred Rouse of Lincoln High in hometown Tallahassee.



- Defensive tackle Callahan Bright from Harriton High in Bryn Mawr, Pa.

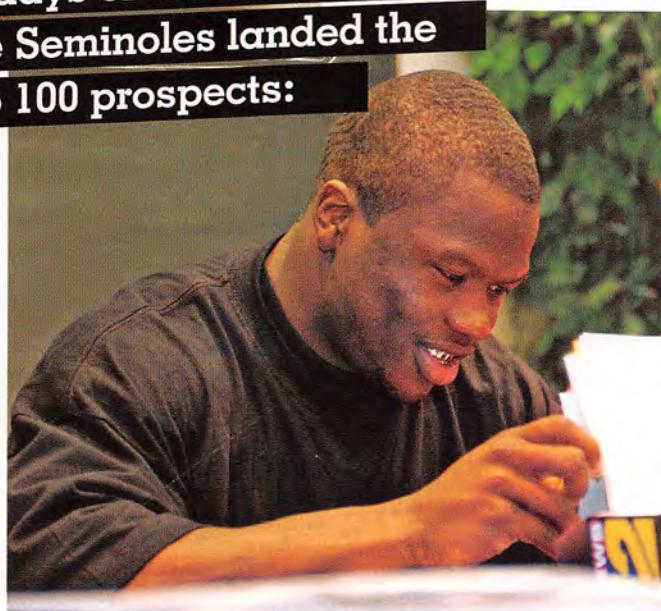


- Linebackers Eugene Hayes of Madison County in Madison, Fla.; Derek Nicholson of Mt. Tabor High in Winston-Salem, N.C.; and Neefy Moffett of Palm Bay High in Melbourne, Fla.



- Defensive back Clarence Ward of Pensacola, Fla.

The earlier Seminole Top 100 recruits were defensive end Justin Mincey of Charlton County High in Folkston, Ga.,



defensive back Michael Ray Garvin of Don Bosco Prep in Ramsey, N.J., and punter/kicker Graham Gano of Tate High in Connton, Fla.

Smith, who was a major target of the University of Miami among others, has been on the

Heralded by many as the top running back in Florida, Antone Smith waited until the last minute before deciding to attend Florida State over Miami.

recruiting radar screen since he broke out as a sophomore running back with more than

1,700 rushing yards at Pahokee. However, he played hurt much of his junior season, which placed a lot of the recruiting interest on hold.

The 5-foot-9, 190-pounder answered all questions as a senior when he led the Blue Devils to a repeat state Class 2B state title. He finished the season by equaling the state's season-scoring record with 44 touchdowns. He also rushed for 2,813 yards on 238 attempts for an 11.8-yard average. Ward started the season for defending Texas Class 4A champion La Marque before he transferred and finished the season at Pensacola. He joins former La Marque teammate, running back Russell Ball, in the Seminoles' recruiting class.

Four of the future Seminoles earned preseason *Street & Smith's* honors in 2004—Smith, Rouse, Moffett and Ward.

Here's the rest of *Street & Smith's* Top 10 incoming recruiting classes:

Oklahoma: The Sooners concentrated on defense in class and the result was six of 100 recruits to go with two touted wide receivers.

Oklahoma landed arguably a second-best linebacker trio in Ian Reynolds of Bishop Gorman in Las Vegas, Nev., Curtis Lofton of Kingfisher, Okla., and Mont Robinson of Salem, N.J.

Joining that trio on the blue-chip defensive list are tackle Marcus Granger of Kimball High in Dallas, plus defensive backs Reggie Smith of Santa Fe Edmond, Okla., and Keenan Layton of Sulphur Springs, Texas.

The offensive recruits are led by top wide receivers Malcolm Kelly of Longview, Texas, and Eric Huggins of Conway, S.C.

Two other recruits earned state Player-of-the-Year honors—Matt Clapp, a fullback/linebacker from Paradise Valley, Ariz., and center Jesse White from Mullen Prep in Denver.

Three of the future Sooners were preseason All-America picks by *Street & Smith's*—Reynolds, Granger and Smith.

Overall, the Sooners signed 27 to grants-in-aid.

3. Southern California: The Trojans landed seven Top 100 prospects, including the No. 1 quarterback and the top linebacker trio.

The signal-caller is Mark Sanchez of Mission Viejo, Calif., the Parade National Player of the Year. The last two Trojan quarterbacks, including rising senior Matt Leinart and current Cincinnati Bengal Carson Palmer, won Heisman trophies and hail from the same area (Orange County) as Sanchez.

The linebacker trio includes two in-state products in Luther Brown of Lakewood and Rey Maualuga of Eureka, plus Brian Cushing of Bergen Catholic in Oradell, N.J., the state Defensive Player of the Year.

Other Top 100 recruits include wide receiver Patrick Turner of Goodpasture in Nashville, Tenn.; defensive ends Kyle Moore of Houston County in Warner Robins, Ga.; and Averell Spicer of Rancho Cucamonga, Calif.

The Trojans' 20 prospects included two preseason *Street & Smith's* All-America choices in Brown and Maualuga.

4. Tennessee: The Vols signed 27 recruits, including six Top 100 prospects. The most interesting signee is quarterback Jonathan Crompton of Waynesville High in Tuscola, N.C. He could challenge for playing time this fall despite the presence of Erik Ainge and Rick Clausen.

Two of the Top 100 signees failed to earn much high school recognition last season because of missed time due to injuries. They are running back LaMarcus Coker of Antioch, Tenn., and defensive safety Adam Myers-White of Hamilton, Ohio.

Besides Crompton, the most touted recruit is defensive back Demetrice Morley, who starred for Florida's Class 6A title team, Killian of Miami.

Three linebackers who could make an early impact are Rico McCoy of St. John's in Washington, D.C., Todd Cox of Harding Academy in Memphis and Andre Mathis of Cathedral Prep in Erie, Pa.

Also, defensive end Raymond Henderson of Oak Creek, Wis., and offensive lineman Chris Scott of Lovejoy, Ga., a 2004 preseason *Street & Smith's* All-American, are touted recruits.

5. Nebraska: The Cornhuskers may have struggled on the field last season, but the latest recruiting class may help to soothe the wounds.

Nebraska received commitments from 30 prospects, including five Top 100 signees—running back Marlon Lucky of North Hollywood, Calif., defensive lineman Ndamukong Suh of Grant High in Portland, Ore., linebacker Phillip Dillard of Jenks, Okla., running back/return specialist Leon Jackson of Pasco, Wash., and placekicker Jordan Congdon of St. Augustine in San Diego. Lucky and Dillard were preseason All-America picks by *Street & Smith's*.

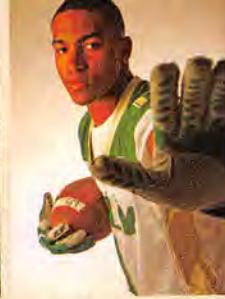
The 'Huskers also went to Florida to recruit quarterback Harrison Beck from Countryside



Ryan Reynolds
LB, Oklahoma



Kevin Grady
RB, Michigan



DeSean Jackson
WR, California

High in Clearwater. The top in-state recruit was tight end/defensive end Zach Potter from state Class A champion Creighton Prep of Omaha.

6. Michigan: The Wolverines had the top-rated Big Ten recruiting class with 23 signees that included seven Top 100 prospects. Michigan landed its top three in-state targets in record-setting running back Kevin Grady of East Grand Rapids, defensive lineman Terrance Taylor from the state's top-ranked team, Muskegon, and defensive back Antonio Bass from Jackson.

The Wolverines also received grant signatures from offensive linemen Marques Slocum of West Catholic in Philadelphia, Pa., Justin Schifano of Schroeder in Webster, N.Y., and Cory Zirbel of Murray, Ky.; defensive lineman James McKinney from Central in Louisville; wide receiver Marion Manningham of Harding in Warren, Ohio; and defensive back Brandon Harrison of Chaminade in Dayton, Ohio.

Grady, Taylor, Slocum and Manningham were preseason *Street & Smith's* All-America choices.

7. California: The Bears, like No. 1 Florida State, moved up the charts with a 24-player Signing Day bonanza that included several touted junior-college prospects and blue-chip wide receiver DeSean Jackson from Poly High in Long Beach. Jackson opted for Cal over USC, which probably would have ranked higher than No. 3 with Jackson in the fold.

Besides Jackson, the other Top 100 high school recruit was offensive lineman Kevin Bemoli from Mission Viejo, Calif., who decommitted from an early verbal to Ohio State.

The junior-college signees make this class a Top 10 group. They include a trio from the City College of San Francisco—quarterback Jacob Ayoob,

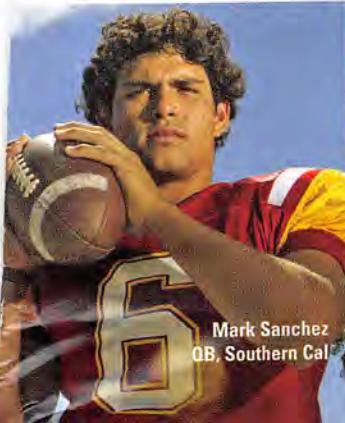
linebacker Desmond Bishop and wide receiver Lavelle Hawkins, plus linebacker Mickey Pimentel from Pima Community College in Arizona. Pimentel had earlier given a verbal to Arizona State. Hawkins committed in 2004 to LSU before going the juco route.

8. Georgia: The Bulldogs added only 19 recruits but filled their needs at most positions. The most touted signees were defensive backs C.J. Byrd of North Augusta, S.C., and Bryan Evans from White High in Jacksonville, Fla., plus defensive lineman Kade Weston of Red Bank (N.J.) Regional and the record-setting passing combination from Independence High in Charlotte, N.C.—quarterback Joe Cox and wide receiver Mohammed Massaquoi, a preseason *Street & Smith's* All-America choice.

9. Miami: The Hurricanes picked up only 17 recruits, but three were preseason *Street & Smith's* All-America honorees and Top 100 recruits. They were safety Kenneth Phillips from Carol City in Miami, probably the top in-state prospect, and two from Texas: offensive lineman Reginald Youngblood from Washington High in Houston and tight end Dajleon Farr from North Shore in the Houston suburb of Galena Park.

The other top in-state signees were linebackers Spencer Adkins from Naples and Demetri Stewart from Northeast in Oakland Park.

10. Texas A&M: The Aggies landed 25 prospects, including the No. 1 ranked tight end in Martellus Bennett from Taylor High in Alief, Texas. Four other in-state recruits could make early names for themselves: fullback Jorvorski Lane and defensive back Alton Dixon from Lufkin, plus defensive tackle Vince Williams from Carter High in Dallas and punter Justin Brantly from Sealy.



Mark Sanchez
QB, Southern Cal

Street & Smith's

2005

HIGH SCHOOL

ALL-AMERICA TEAM

HALF OF THE PLAYERS ON OUR 24TH ANNUAL HONOR ROLL OF PREP FOOTBALL STARS HAIL FROM
THREE STATES—CALIFORNIA, FLORIDA AND TEXAS.

By Doug Huff

The power states of California, Florida and Texas continue to lead the way on the 24th annual Street & Smith's High School All-America Football Team.

Half of the 50-player selections hail from three of the 21 states represented on the preseason honor roll.

California leads the way with 10 choices. Texas has nine and six are from Florida.

One school has two choices, Mission Viejo, Calif., which went 14-0 last season and finished the season ranked No. 2 nationally by *Student Sports* magazine.

Among the honorees from those states are four of the eight rising seniors among the Top 50 who had committed to college scholarship offers by early spring.

The University of Texas received commitments from three honored in-state prospects: running back Emmanuel Moody of Coppell, defensive end Eddie Jones of Kilgore and linebacker Sergio Kindle of Wilson High in Dallas.

UCLA was the early choice for Top 50 pick Walter Watts, an offensive lineman from Los Banos, Calif.

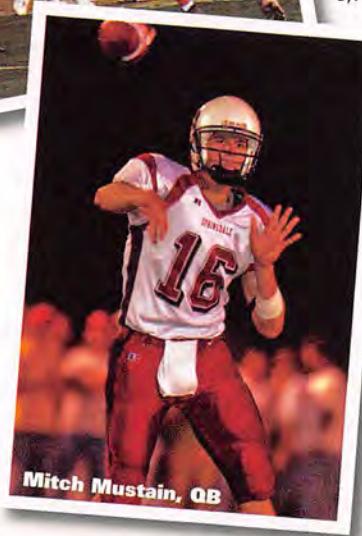
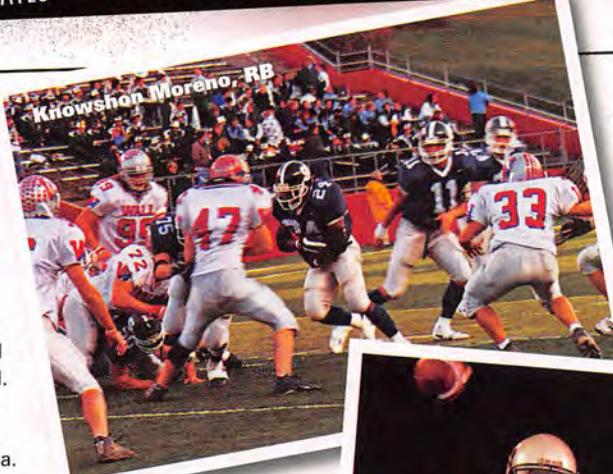
The other early verbals were given by quarterback Zach Frazer of Mechanicsburg, Pa., to Notre Dame; running back Chris Wells of Garfield High in Akron, Ohio, to Ohio State; offensive lineman Jacques McClendon of the Baylor School in Chattanooga, Tenn., to the University of Tennessee; and linebacker Brandon Graham of Crockett High in Detroit, to the University of Michigan.

Here's a position-by-position breakdown of Street & Smith's Top 50 selections:

QUARTERBACKS

Texas and Pennsylvania are home to four of the seven cited signal-callers.

The touted Lone Star State quarterbacks are Jevan Snead of Stephenville and Matt Stafford of Highland Park in Dallas. Last season, Snead completed 181 of 304 passes for 3,025 yards and 29 touchdowns in 11 games. Stafford, in 10 games as a junior, passed for 1,763 yards and 18 TDs and ran for four scores. As a sophomore,



Stafford opened eyes by passing for 3,160 yards and 38 TDs and rushing for seven scores in 15 games.

Frazer and Pat Devlin of Downingtown East High in Exton, Pa., both earned first-team all-state honors in different classes last season. Frazer, the Fighting Irish recruit and Class 3A all-stater, set a state single-season record of 3,700 passing yards while completing 285 of

440 aerials for 27 TDs in 13 games.

Devlin, the Class 4A all-stater, enters his final season with 5,364 career passing yards and 51 TDs. Last season, he was 147-of-231 for 2,237 yards and 21 scores. He also rushed for 357 yards and 10 TDs.

Florida's most prolific single-season passer returns for his final year. Tim Tebow of Nease High in Ponte Vedra set the state standard of 4,286 aerial yards last season while accounting for 5,572 total offense yards and 70 TDs.

The other two quarterback honorees will be directing teams seeking state and national recognition this season after playing in 13 games as juniors.

Mitch Mustain pulls the trigger at Springdale, Ark., while Demetrius Jones is the field general at Morgan Park High in Chicago. Mustain completed 139 of 222 passes for 2,169 yards and 20 TDs. He also rushed 70 times for 333 yards and 14 scores. Jones passed for 2,300 yards and 23 TDs, while rushing for 1,100 yards and 16 scores.

RUNNING BACKS

Two players who earned national awards from EA Sports as the best players in their class headline the 10 honored running back selections.

Last season, New Jersey's Knowshon Moreno of Middletown South was the national Junior-of-the-Year honoree. Two years ago, LeSean McCoy of Bishop McDevitt in Harrisburg, Pa., was the national Sophomore of the Year.

Moreno has led South to back-to-back unbeaten seasons and 24 straight wins and is poised to shatter all-time state records for touchdowns and points. He enters his final season with 96 TDs and

84 points, and is eyeing the state marks of 101 TDs and 656 points. He also has 529 career rushing yards—the state record is 6,720. Last season, he rushed 18 times for 2,030 yards and scored 40 TDs, including three on returns. In one game, Moreno rushed 24 times for 420 yards and seven scores.

McCoy was the Pennsylvania Class 1A Player of the Year last season when he rushed for 2,800 yards and 40 touchdowns. In a three-game state playoff run, he gained 1,100 yards and scored 16 TDs. As a sophomore, the two-time all-state rushed for 2,561 yards and 28 TDs.

The two most touted running backs in Texas are Moody and Jamaal Evans of Irving. Moody rushed for 1,319 yards and 12 TDs and landed two pass-reception scores as a junior. Evans has rushed 663 times for 4,586 yards and 54 TDs the last two seasons. As a junior, he gained 2,133 yards and scored 25 TDs on 276 carries.

Ohio's top prospect is Wells. The Buckeye recruit carried 212 times for 1,930 yards and 20 TDs while also landing 10 passes for 148 yards and a score.

Florida's most touted running back has a familiar name. Javarris James of state Class 2A champion Immokalee is a nephew of Indianapolis Colts star Edgerrin James. The high school senior has rushed for 2,800 career yards, including 1,650 yards and 25 TDs last season.

In Nevada, Eric Jordan has led Las Vegas High to two straight state runner-up finishes and all-state honors. He rushed 348 times for 2,871 yards and 36 TDs in 15 games last season.

California is deep in rushing talent this season. The top trio could be three all-stars in fullback Chane Moline of Mission Viejo, Stafon Johnson of Dorsey High in Los Angeles and Tracy Slocum of East High in Clovis. Moline was the *Cal-Hi Sports* magazine Junior of the Year after rushing for 1,842 yards and 36 TDs for the 14-0 team that finished the year ranked No. 2 nationally.

UTILITY PLAYERS

A versatile California athlete and two multipurpose Florida athletes are the utility choices on this team.

Running back/safety C.J. Gable of Sylmar, Calif., is attracting widespread recruiting attention after rushing for 2,023 yards and 23 TDs and landing 14 passes for 230 yards and a score last season. He also charted 81 tackles and had four interceptions on defense.

Wide receiver/defensive back Brandon Heath of Palm Beach Lakes High in West Palm Beach was a Florida Class 6A all-state honoree last season when he notched 10 tackles for loss and returned one of three interceptions for a TD. He also led his team in pass receptions for two years.

Antonio Wilson of Mainland High in Daytona Beach was a threat at wide receiver and kick returner last season. The track sprinter averaged 40 yards on kickoff runbacks.



WIDE RECEIVERS

Virginia's top player led his Landstown team in Virginia Beach to a 14-0 record and state Class 3A title last season in only the school's fourth season.

Versatile Percy Harvin landed 58 passes for 986 yards and 17 TDs, rushed for 690 yards and nine scores, while adding six TDs on returns. In the state title game, he accounted for 476 all-purpose yards with four touchdowns and three interceptions. In two seasons, he has 97 catches for 1,612 yards and 28 scores.

The nation's leading receiver last season returns to set more records. South Carolina all-state pick Markus Boswell caught 131 passes, one off the national record, for 2,091 yards and 25 TDs last season, while rushing seven times for 49 yards and three scores. He has 229 career catches with one season left.

California is home for David Ausberry of Lemoore High. The rangy receiver scored 12 TDs last season, while landing 35 passes for 800 yards and rushing 20 times for 400 yards. He's scored 22 TDs while landing 70 passes for 1,550 yards in his career.

TIGHT ENDS

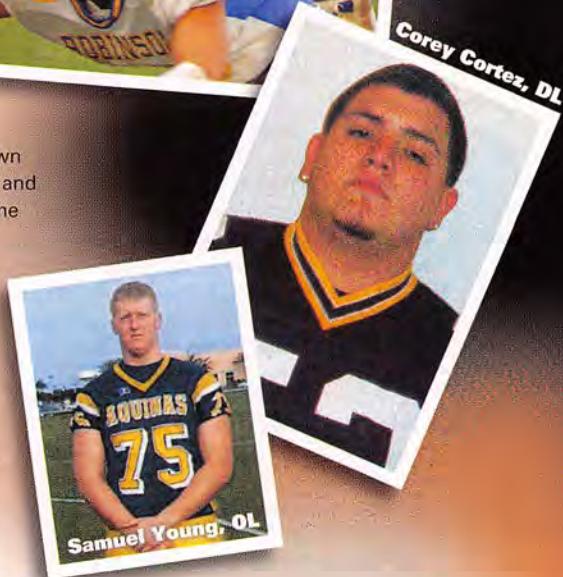
The second honoree from Mission Viejo is tight end Konrad Reuland, a 6-foot-6, 240-pounder who's attracting widespread recruiting attention. The other honoree is two-sport Oklahoma standout Jermaine Gresham of Ardmore. The 6-foot-7, 230-pounder is also a touted basketball performer.

KICKER

The only California junior on the *Cal-Hi Sports* magazine first-team all-state selections was placekicker Kai Forbath of Notre Dame High in Sherman Oaks. He set a state record of 130 points with near-perfect boots: 19 of 21 field goals and all 73 conversion kicks. His longest field goal was 52 yards.

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN

The top-rated prospects in Alabama, North Carolina and Tennessee are 300-pound-plus all-state offensive blockers—Andre Smith of Huffman High in Birmingham, Ala., Carl Johnson of Southern High in Durham, N.C., and McClendon.



Smith (6-5, 305), who impressed at off-season camps, charted 90 pancake blocks last year while grading out at 93-percent blocking efficiency. Johnson (6-6, 340) led his team to the state Class 3A semifinals and recorded 97 pancake blocks in 14 games. McClendon (6-4, 325) was a dominating player and the first player to commit to his home-state school.

Other honored blockers include massive Curtis Bailey (6-7, 355) of Carter High in Dallas; Justin Boren (6-4, 295) of North High in Pickerington, Ohio; Cory Brandon (6-7, 260) of Corsicana, Texas; Samuel Young (6-6, 285) of St. Thomas Aquinas in Fort Lauderdale, Fla.; and UCLA recruit Watts.

DEFENSIVE LINEMEN

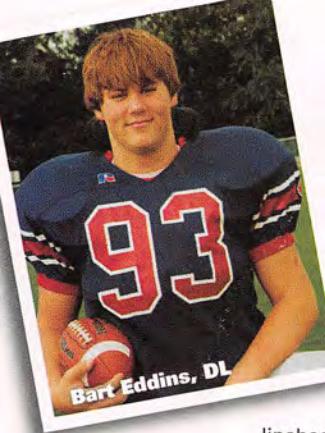
The defensive front of the Top 50 is anchored by five stoppers from five states.

University of Texas recruit Jones could be the Lone Star State's top-rated prospect.

Kentucky's top overall prospect is all-state Micah Johnson from Fort Campbell. Last season, he compiled a remarkable 174 tackles. When asked to run the ball on offense, he accounted for 1,200 yards.

Corey Cortez was not only a unanimous all-state choice as a junior in Wisconsin but was selected the state's Defensive Player of the Year. The West Allis Central High athlete was credited with 74 tackles, including nine for losses, with eight sacks in 12 games.

In Alabama, Bart Eddins of Trinity Presbyterian High in Montgomery has



posted 31 tackles for loss in 40 career starts. The all-stater had 121 tackles in 10 games as a junior.

Jamie Cumbie of Morris, Ill., is receiving widespread recruiting attention after a productive junior season.



LINEBACKERS

Georgia's top prospect this season could be

linebacker Marcus Ball of Stephenson

High in Stone Mountain. Ball earned all-state honors as a junior when he was credited with 120 tackles, including seven sacks.

Two defenders from Dallas are among the nation's best. University of Texas recruit Kindle is a four-year performer out of Wilson High who doubles as a running back. Skyline High's Michael Morgan posted big numbers last season: 98 tackles, 18 sacks, seven forced fumbles and a touchdown on a blocked punt.

Allen Bradford of Colton, Calif., followed up his junior all-state season with impressive showings in camp evaluations and is arguably the top 'backer on the West Coast.

The top prospects in Michigan and Colorado play linebacker, including University of Michigan recruit Brandon Graham. The all-stater had 114 tackles and 20 sacks last season. Lamar Houston plays several positions on both sides of the ball at Doherty High in Colorado Springs. On defense, he had 102 tackles, including 16 for losses. On offense, the 260-pounder rushed for 862 yards and 15 touchdowns.

DEFENSIVE BACKS

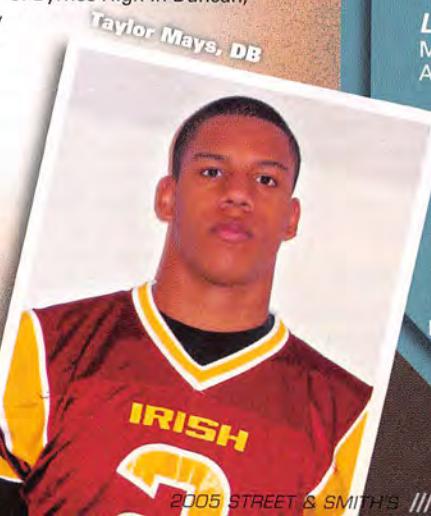
College scouts and recruiters are familiar with The Hun School in Princeton, N.J. That's where Myron Rolle, rated by some observers as the nation's No. 1 overall prospect, excels as a two-way back. New Jersey's Prep School Defensive Player of the Year posted impressive numbers as a junior. He was credited with 83 tackles, including 19 for losses, with six sacks and four pass interceptions. On offense, he rushed 141 times for 1,501 yards and 16 touchdowns.

The "Best-in-the-West" tag might be placed on Taylor Mays of O'Dea High in Seattle. Last year, he had 89 tackles, returned one of five interceptions for a score and returned two punts for TDs. As a wide receiver, he caught 25 passes for 514 yards and seven TDs.

In California, Darian Hagan Jr. of Crenshaw High in Los Angeles intercepted 15 passes last season, including three in a game on two occasions.

Two standouts from the Southeast round out the secondary—Prince Miller of Byrnes High in Duncan, S.C., and Jamar Hornsby

of Sandalwood High in Jacksonville, Fla. Miller helped his team to a 13-1 record and third straight state title last season with five pass interceptions and four return TDs. Hornsby will be a four-year regular in the secondary and at wide receiver.



TOP 50

HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS

QUARTERBACKS

| | | | | |
|-----------------|-----|-----|---------------|-------------------|
| Pat Devlin | 6-4 | 210 | Downington | E. Exton, PA |
| Zach Frazer | 6-5 | 220 | Mechanicsburg | Mechanicsburg, PA |
| Demetrius Jones | 6-3 | 190 | Morgan Park | Chicago, IL |
| Mitch Mustain | 6-3 | 205 | Springdale | Springdale, AR |
| Jevan Snead | 6-4 | 205 | Stephenville | Stephenville, TX |
| Matt Stafford | 6-2 | 200 | Highland Park | Dallas, TX |
| Tim Tebow | 6-3 | 220 | Nease | Ponte Vedra, FL |

RUNNING BACKS

| | | | | |
|-----------------|------|-----|-----------------|-------------------|
| Jamaal Evans | 5-8 | 185 | Irving | Irving, TX |
| Eric Jordan | 5-10 | 170 | Las Vegas | Las Vegas, NV |
| Javarris James | 6-1 | 205 | Immokalee | Immokalee, FL |
| Stafon Johnson | 6-0 | 190 | Dorsey | Los Angeles, CA |
| LeSean McCoy | 5-10 | 195 | Bishop McDevitt | Harrisburg, PA |
| Chane Moline | 6-1 | 230 | Mission Viejo | Mission Viejo, CA |
| Emmanuel Moody | 6-0 | 200 | Coppell | Coppell, TX |
| Knowshon Moreno | 5-11 | 205 | Middletown So. | Middletown, NJ |
| Tracy Slocum | 5-10 | 180 | Clovis East | Clovis, CA |
| Chris Wells | 6-1 | 230 | Garfield | Akron, OH |

UTILITY PLAYERS

| | | | | |
|----------------|-----|-----|----------------|-------------------|
| C.J. Gable | 6-1 | 190 | Sylmar | Sylmar, CA |
| Brandon Heath | 6-2 | 185 | P. Beach Lakes | W. Palm Beach, FL |
| Antonio Wilson | 6-1 | 180 | Mainland | Daytona Beach, FL |

WIDE RECEIVERS

| | | | | |
|----------------|-----|-----|------------|--------------------|
| David Ausberry | 6-5 | 215 | Lemoore | Lemoore, CA |
| Markus Boswell | 6-0 | 160 | Greenville | Greenville, SC |
| Percy Harvin | 6-1 | 190 | Landstown | Virginia Beach, VA |

TIGHT ENDS

| | | | | |
|------------------|-----|-----|---------------|-------------------|
| Jermaine Gresham | 6-7 | 230 | Ardmore | Ardmore, OK |
| Konrad Reuland | 6-6 | 240 | Mission Viejo | Mission Viejo, CA |

KICKERS

| | | | | |
|-------------|-----|-----|------------|------------------|
| Kai Forbath | 6-0 | 175 | Notre Dame | Sherman Oaks, CA |
|-------------|-----|-----|------------|------------------|

OFFENSIVE LINEMAN

| | | | | |
|-------------------|-----|-----|----------------|--------------------|
| Curtis Bailey | 6-7 | 355 | Carter | Dallas, TX |
| Justin Boren | 6-4 | 295 | North | Pickerington, OH |
| Cory Brandon | 6-7 | 260 | Corsicana | Corsicana, TX |
| Carl Johnson | 6-6 | 325 | Southern | Durham, NC |
| Jacques McClendon | 6-4 | 325 | Baylor School | Chattanooga, TN |
| Andre Smith | 6-5 | 305 | Huffman | Birmingham, AL |
| Walter Watts | 6-3 | 275 | Los Banos | Los Banos, CA |
| Samuel Young | 6-6 | 285 | St. T. Aquinas | Ft. Lauderdale, FL |

DEFENSIVE LINEMAN

| | | | | |
|---------------|-----|-----|--------------|------------------|
| Corey Cortez | 6-0 | 270 | Central | West Allis, WI |
| Jamie Cumbie | 6-7 | 255 | Morris | Morris, IL |
| Bart Eddins | 6-5 | 260 | Trinity | Montgomery, AL |
| Micah Johnson | 6-2 | 270 | Ft. Campbell | Ft. Campbell, KY |
| Eddie Jones | 6-3 | 225 | Kilgore | Kilgore, TX |

LINEBACKERS

| | | | | |
|----------------|------|-----|------------|--------------------|
| Marcus Ball | 6-0 | 200 | Stephenson | Stone Mountain, GA |
| Allen Bradford | 5-11 | 220 | Colton | Colton, CA |
| Brandon Graham | 6-2 | 235 | Crockett | Detroit, MI |
| Lamar Houston | 6-4 | 260 | Doherty | Col. Springs, CO |
| Sergio Kindle | 6-4 | 225 | Wilson | Dallas, TX |
| Michael Morgan | 6-3 | 195 | Skyline | Dallas, TX |

DEFENSIVE BACKS

| | | | | |
|------------------|------|-----|------------|------------------|
| Darian Hagan Jr. | 6-1 | 175 | Crenshaw | Los Angeles, CA |
| Jamar Hornsby | 6-3 | 195 | Sandalwood | Jacksonville, FL |
| Taylor Mays | 6-3 | 220 | O'Dea | Seattle, WA |
| Prince Miller | 5-10 | 180 | Byrnes | Duncan, SC |
| Myron Rolle | 6-2 | 215 | Hun School | Princeton, NJ |

OTHER PREP SENIORS TO WATCH

QUARTERBACKS

| | HIGH SCHOOL | HOMETOWN |
|--------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Austin Arnaud | Ames | Ames, IA |
| Chase Brunick | Desert Edge | Goodyear, AZ |
| Alex Cate | Cottonwood | Cottonwood, UT |
| Neil Caudle | Spain Park | Hoover, AL |
| Carson Coffman | Raymore-Peculiar | Peculiar, MO |
| Michael Coughlin | Mira Mesa | San Diego, CA |
| Dexter Davidson | N. Broward Prep | Coconut Creek, FL |
| Nate Davis | Bellaire | Bellaire, OH |
| Connor Dixon | South Park | Library, PA |
| Nathan Enderle | North Platte | North Platte, NE |
| Jared Fayson | Hillsborough | Tampa, FL |
| Emanuel Francis | Godby | Tallahassee, FL |
| Josh Freeman | Grandview | Grandview, MO |
| Brennan Glass | South | Springfield, OH |
| Clark Harrell | Ennis | Ennis, TX |
| Sherrod Harris | Bowie | Arlington, TX |
| Mike Hartline | GlenOak | Canton, OH |
| Michael Herrick | Valencia | Valencia, CA |
| Tyler Huether | Penn-Trafford | Harrison City, PA |
| Jeff Jansen | Diamond Bar | Diamond Bar, CA |
| Rudy Kirby | St. Ignatius | Cleveland, OH |
| Thaddeus Lewis | Miami Lakes | Hialeah, FL |
| Jeff Lindsay | L'Anse Creuse No. | Macomb, MI |
| Alex Loukas | Deerfield | Deerfield, IL |
| Greg McElroy | Carroll | Southlake, TX |
| Eddie McGee | Woodson | Washington, DC |
| Brett Morris | Central | Hinsdale, IL |
| Chris Paul-Etienne | Edison | Miami, FL |
| Christian Ponder | Heritage | Colleyville, TX |
| Taylor Potts | Abilene | Abilene, TX |
| Jeremy Ricker | Bishop McDevitt | Harrisburg, PA |
| Miles Schlichter | Miami Trace | Wash.C.H., OH |
| Daniel Stegall | Greenwood | Greenwood, AR |
| Nick Stephens | Flower Mound | Flower Mound, TX |
| Mike Verika | Monsignor Bonner | Drexel Hill, PA |
| Adam Weber | Mounds View | Arden Hills, MN |
| Isiah Williams | Vocational | Chicago, IL |
| John Witte | Mukwonago | Mukwonago, WI |

| | HIGH SCHOOL | HOMETOWN |
|--------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| Tim House | Centennial | Peoria, AZ |
| Brandon James | St. Augustine | St. Augustine, FL |
| Skyler Jessen | Mead | Spokane, WA |
| Josh Johnson | Ponca City | Ponca City, OK |
| Courtney Jones | Pensacola | Pensacola, FL |
| Jay Leal | Westwood | Mesa, AZ |
| Travis McBride | McKeesport | McKeesport, PA |
| Princeton McCarty | West Bakersfield | Bakersfield, CA |
| Vondell McGee | Longview | Longview, TX |
| Gaston Miller | Riverdale | Murfreesboro, TN |
| Jamel Miller | Tallmadge | Tallmadge, OH |
| Lonyae Miller | Kaiser | Fontana, CA |
| Brandon Minor | Varina | Richmond, VA |
| Cameron Mobley | Trotwood-Madison | Trotwood, OH |
| James Montgomery | Cordova | Rancho Cordova, CA |
| Mitchell Moore | Warren | Warren, IL |
| Richard Murphy | Rayville | Rayville, LA |
| DeMarco Murray | Bishop Gorman | Las Vegas, NV |
| Leon Patten | White | Dallas, TX |
| Brant Quick | Berwick | Berwick, PA |
| Alexander Robinson | De La Salle | Minneapolis, MN |
| Derke Robinson | Hebron | Carrollton, TX |
| Evan Royster | Westfield | Chantilly, VA |
| Charles Scott | Jonesboro-Hodge | Jonesboro, LA |
| Jake Sharp | Central | Salina, KS |
| Brandon Shimits | Solon | Solon, OH |
| Jaious Singleton | East St. Louis | East St. Louis, IL |
| Luke Schmidt | Jasper | Jasper, IN |
| C. J. Spiller | Union County | Lake Butler, FL |
| Ben Tate | Snow Hill | Snow Hill, MD |
| Ricky Thenarse | Jordan | Los Angeles, CA |
| Dwayne Thomas | Tombstone | Tombstone, AZ |
| Jamar Wall | Plainview | Plainview, TX |
| Chevron Walker | Riverdale | Fort Myers, FL |
| Garry Warren | Elizabeth | Elizabeth, NJ |
| Lynn Williams | Lowndes County | Valdosta, GA |
| Mon Williams | Horn | Mesquite, TX |
| Corey Young | Millard North | Omaha, NE |

| | HIGH SCHOOL | HOMETOWN |
|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| Barry Gallup Jr. | Belmont Hill | Wellesley, MA |
| Garrett Green | Notre Dame | Sherman Oaks, CA |
| Mike Hague | Brighton | Salt Lake City, UT |
| Matt Harper | Lowndes County | Valdosta, GA |
| Akeem Hebron | Good Counsel | Wheaton, MD |
| Davell Jackson | Senatobia | Senatobia, MS |
| Tavorris Jolly | Shelby | Shelby, NC |
| Brad Kanuch | Westmont-Hilltop | Johnstown, PA |
| Orie Lemon | Yates | Houston, TX |
| David Lighty | VA-St. Joseph | Cleveland, OH |
| Jake Locker | Ferndale | Ferndale, WA |
| Dustin Lindsey | Alcoa | Alcoa, TN |
| Trevor Marcum | Wayne County | Wayne, WV |
| Billy McKeon | Joliet Catholic | Joliet, IL |
| Riley Nelson | Logan | Logan, UT |
| Munir Prince | DeSmet | St.Louis, MO |
| Keith Rosenberg | Bellevue | Bellevue, WA |
| Nico Scott | E. Roosevelt | Greenbelt, MD |
| Tyler Scruggs | South Park | Library, PA |
| Marcus Sims | N. Fla. Christian | Tallahassee, FL |
| Raymond Small | Glenville | Cleveland, OH |
| Jeff Smith | Silver Lake | Kingston, MA |
| Philip Strozier | Rockhurst | Kansas City, MO |
| Van Stumon | North Little Rock | N. Little Rock, AR |
| Dexter Taylor | Warren Central | Indianapolis, IN |
| A. J. Wallace | McDonough | Pomfret, MD |
| Norman Whitley | Richmond Senior | Rockingham, NC |
| Jermaine Williams | Maryvale | Phoenix, AZ |

WIDE RECEIVERS

| | HIGH SCHOOL | HOMETOWN |
|---------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| Terrence Austin | Poly | Long Beach, CA |
| Andrey Baskin | Woodrow Wilson | Camden, NJ |
| Chris Bell | Granby | Norfolk, VA |
| Sheldon Bell | City College | Baltimore, MD |
| Niles Brinkley | Beaumont | St. Louis, MO |
| Tim Brown | Northwestern | Miami, FL |
| Brandon Caleb | Fork Union Military | Fork Union, VA |
| Adrian Cannon | Avondale | Auburn Hills, MI |
| Josh Chichester | Lakota West | West Chester, OH |
| Ricky Dixon | East St. John | Reserve, LA |
| Ryan Ellis | Nease | Ponte Vedra, FL |
| Jake Fetzer | Beaverton | Beaverton, OR |
| Carl Fisher | Bolingbrook | Bolingbrook, IL |
| Luke Fowler | R. A. Long | Longview, WA |
| Chris Fulmer | Nitro | Nitro, WV |
| Lance Francis | Charlotte | Punta Gorda, FL |
| Kevin Hagans | Franklin | Franklin, WI |
| Quintin Hancock | St. Augustine | St. Augustine, FL |
| Vidal Hazelton | Moore Catholic | Staten Island, NY |
| Jamere Holland | Taft | Woodland Hills, CA |
| Richard Jackson | East Ridge | Clermont, FL |
| McKay Jacobson | Carroll | Southlake, TX |
| Chris James | Morgan Park | Chicago, IL |
| Dominique Johnson | Valley View | Moreno Valley, CA |
| Jerrod Johnson | Humble | Humble, TX |
| Anthony Jones | Rickards | Tallahassee, FL |
| Daven Jones | Glenville | Cleveland, OH |
| Lance Kendricks | King | Milwaukee, WI |
| Crawford Kilpatrick | North Gwinnett | Suwanee, GA |
| Jerel Leak | Trotwood-Madison | Trotwood, OH |
| Terry Levy | Kosciusko | Kosciusko, MS |
| Kendrick Lewis | Walker | New Orleans, LA |
| John Maddox | West Catholic | Philadelphia, PA |
| Josh Marshall | James Martin | Arlington, TX |
| Damon McDaniel | Landstown | Virginia Beach, VA |
| Chris Mitchell | John Ehret | Marrero, LA |
| Quintin Patilla | Carman-Ainsworth | Flint, MI |
| Travon Patterson | Poly | Long Beach, CA |
| Phillip Payne | South Garland | Garland, TX |
| Tamarcus Porter | Pahokee | Pahokee, FL |

RUNNING BACKS

| | HIGH SCHOOL | HOMETOWN |
|-------------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| Josh Adams | Cary | Cary, NC |
| James Aldridge | Merrillville | Merrillville, IN |
| Anthony Allen | Jesuit | Tampa, FL |
| Armando Allen | Miami Lakes | Hialeah, FL |
| Tim Allen | East Lyme | East Lyme, CT |
| Danielle Babb | Franklin | Franklin, VA |
| Baron Batch | Midland | Midland, TX |
| Joe Benson | Joliet Catholic | Joliet, IL |
| Glyndon Bolasky | Sabino | Tucson, AZ |
| Chris Brown | Alexandria | Alexandria, LA |
| Ahmad Burks | Baldwainsville | Baldwainsville, NY |
| Lucas Caparelli | Robinson | Fairfax, VA |
| Latreal Cooper | Cuero | Cuero, TX |
| Ricky Crider | Reitz | Evansville, IN |
| Josh Culbertson | Nitro | Nitro, WV |
| Derrick Davis | Meridian | Meridian, MS |
| Cordera Eason | Meridian | Meridian, MS |
| Lambert Edwards | South Dade | Homestead, FL |
| Anthony Elzy | J. F. Kennedy | Warren, OH |
| Cody Englebrecht | Hamilton | Chandler, AZ |
| Ryan Fisicaro | Creighton Prep | Omaha, NE |
| Toby Gerhart | Norco | Norco, CA |
| Terry Grant | Lumberton | Lumberton, MS |
| Christen Haywood | Davidson | Hilliard, OH |
| Anthony Henderson | Miami Lakes | Hialeah, FL |
| Tyler Henderson | Lower Burrell | Lower Burrell, PA |
| Roderick Hill | Jupiter | Jupiter, FL |
| Trent Hines | Lee | Midland, TX |
| Jamere Holland | Taft | Woodland Hills, CA |



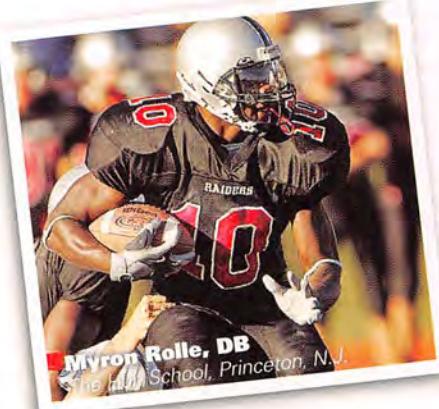
UTILITY PLAYERS

| | HIGH SCHOOL | HOMETOWN |
|------------------|------------------|---------------------|
| Max Anderson | Morgantown | Morgantown, WV |
| Aaron Cawfield | Hickman | Columbia, MO |
| Chandler Clemons | Oak Ridge | El Dorado Hills, CA |
| Deonte Cobbs | Jefferson Forest | Forest, VA |
| Riley Cooper | Central Catholic | Clearwater, FL |
| Eli Crawford | Lee | Staunton, VA |
| Quentin Davis | Cardinal Ritter | St. Louis, MO |
| Dorin Dickerson | West Allegheny | Imperial, PA |
| Kris Durham | Calhoun | Calhoun, GA |
| Pierre Fleurinor | Wharton | Wharton, TX |
| Devon Freeman | Niceville | Niceville, FL |

| | HIGH SCHOOL | HOMETOWN |
|------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| Xavier Rambo | Wilmer-Hutchins | Dallas, TX |
| Austin Raught | Fremont | Ogden, UT |
| Clint Renfro | Carroll | Southlake, TX |
| Patrick Robinson | South Miami | Miami, FL |
| Derrick Russell | Omaha Central | Omaha, NE |
| Stephen Schwicke | Bellport | Bellport, NY |
| Chris Slaughter | Peach County | Fort Valley, GA |
| Adron Tennell | Irving | Irving, TX |
| Latarrius Thomas | New Smyrna Bch. | N. Smyrna Bch., FL |
| Brent Vinson | Phoebus | Hampton, VA |
| Jonathan Walker | Newnan | Newnan, GA |
| Montrae Webber | Hearne | Hearne, TX |
| Jared White | Williamson | Mobile, AL |
| Marcus Wilkins | McArthur | Decatur, IL |
| Damian Williams | Springdale | Springdale, AR |
| Justin Williams | Charlton County | Folkston, GA |
| Warren Wilson | New Hampton Prep | New Hampton, NH |
| Terrell Zachery | Wadley | Wadley, AL |

TIGHT ENDS

| | HIGH SCHOOL | HOMETOWN |
|------------------|----------------|-------------------|
| Andrew Berryman | Saltpointe | Tucson, AZ |
| Marcus Brown | DeMatha | Hyattsville, MD |
| Bart Coslet | Howell Central | St. Charles, MO |
| George Johnson | Glassboro | Glassboro, NJ |
| Matthew Mauldin | Seminary | Seminary, MS |
| Anthony McCoy | Bullard | Fresno, CA |
| Jeff Minemyer | Bishop Carroll | Ebensburg, PA |
| Britt Mitchell | Kilgore | Kilgore, TX |
| Paddy Mullen | DeSmet | St. Louis, MO |
| Chris Neild | Stroudsburg | Stroudsburg, PA |
| Caz Pirowski | Land O' Lakes | Land O' Lakes, FL |
| Jack Shields | Boston College | Boston, MA |
| Lee Smith | Powell | Knoxville, TN |
| Dominique Walker | Christiana | Newark, DE |
| Brandon Warren | Alcoa | Alcoa, TN |



OFFENSIVE LINEMEN

| | HIGH SCHOOL | HOMETOWN |
|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| Matt Allen | Klein Collins | Spring, TX |
| Sean Allen | James Hunt | Wilson, NC |
| Justin Anderson | Irwin County | Ocilla, GA |
| Pierre Andrews | Independence | Charlotte, NC |
| Matt Barber | Damascus | Damascus, MD |
| Cruz Barrett | Mainland | Daytona Beach, FL |
| Tim Barnes | N.W. Pettis Co. | Hughesville, MO |
| Chase Beeler | Jenks | Jenks, OK |
| Brandon Bennett | Bishop Amat | La Puente, CA |
| Shawn Bernacky | D. Grove South | Downers Grove, IL |
| Jack Brady | Maine South | Park Ridge, IL |
| Aaron Brown | Princeton | Cincinnati, OH |
| Jake Bscherer | Sturgeon Bay | Sturgeon Bay, WI |

| | HIGH SCHOOL | HOMETOWN |
|--------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| Cole Bunner | Mt. Michael | Elkhorn, NE |
| Buck Burnette | Wimberley | Wimberley, TX |
| Drew Chasney | Horn | Mesquite, TX |
| Scott Corson | Johnstown | Johnstown, PA |
| Mike Costanzo | Monte Vista | Danville, CA |
| Josh Davis | Tylertown | Tylertown, MS |
| Jake Dean | Paraclete | Lancaster, CA |
| Perry Dorestein | Plainfield | Plainfield, IL |
| Josh Evans | Fayetteville | Fayetteville, WV |
| Brandon Frey | Montini | Lombard, IL |
| Sione Fua | Crespi | Encino, CA |
| Romney Fuga | Edison | Huntington Bch., CA |
| Clifton Geathers | Carver's Bay | Georgetown, SC |
| Davarin Gerald | Scotlandville | Scotlandville, LA |
| Chris Hannah | Gateway | Monroeville, PA |
| Braden Hansen | Alta | Sandy, UT |
| Ben Harden | Perry | Perry, GA |
| Jim Hart | Pocahontas | Pocahontas, AR |
| Joe Hawley | Esperanza | Anaheim, CA |
| Jovan Hayes | Dorsey | Los Angeles, CA |
| Corey Hobbs | Oviedo | Oviedo, FL |
| Jarrod Holt | Clearwater | Clearwater, FL |
| Curt Hornback | Westmoore | Oklahoma City, OK |
| Mark Jackson | Brookhaven | Columbus, OH |
| Ramon Johnson | Morgan Park | Chicago, IL |
| D.J. Jones | Central | Omaha, NE |
| Brandon Jordan | Merrillville | Merrillville, IN |
| Andy Keane | Palm Springs | Palm Springs, CA |
| James Kilgore | Dobyns-Bennett | Kingsport, TN |
| Mike Kush | Johnstown | Johnstown, PA |
| John Kyed | Boulder | Boulder, CO |
| Isaac Leatiota | Wilcox | Santa Clara, CA |
| Antonio Logan-El | Forestville | Forestville, MD |
| Demitri Lott | Marshall | Missouri City, TX |
| Jeff Maddux | Monroe | Monroe, MI |
| Kevin McCaskill | Godby | Tallahassee, FL |
| Chris Meenan | Wooster | Wooster, OH |
| John Miller | Woodland | Cartersville, GA |
| Joe Munguia | Pinnacle | Phoenix, AZ |
| Steve Moore | Jersey Village | Houston, TX |
| Cory Murry | Indian River | Frankford, DE |
| Jason Onyeagu | Warren Central | Indianapolis, IN |
| Timi Oshinowo | Neuqua Valley | Naperville, IL |
| Jeff Owens | T. Roosevelt | Washington, DC |
| Lucas Patterson | King | Kingsville, TX |
| Andrew Phillips | Georgetown Prep | Rockville, MD |
| Clayton Powell | Palmetto | Palmetto, FL |
| Craig Rau | Ravenna | Ravenna, MI |
| Lon Roberts | Kilgore | Kilgore, TX |
| Daron Rose | Jefferson | Tampa, FL |
| Teran Sanders | Southeast | Bradenton, FL |
| Stephen Schilling | Bellevue | Bellevue, WA |
| Sean Sheller | Walnut | Walnut, CA |
| Connor Smith | Colerain | Cincinnati, OH |
| Adam Smotherman | Smyrna | Smyrna, TN |
| Alex Stadler | Liberty | Bealetown, VA |
| Alex Stonehouse | Central | West Allis, WI |
| Doug Stroud | Evangel | Shreveport, LA |
| Ian Symette | St. Pius | Houston, TX |
| Sonny Tevaga | Dominguez | Compton, CA |
| Ryan Tolar | Pasco | Pasco, WA |
| James Truesdale | Anacostia | Washington, DC |
| Mike Ward | St. John's | Washington, DC |
| Brandon Washington | Cedar Hill | Cedar Hill, TX |
| Roy Watts | Worthing | Houston, TX |
| Bartley Webb | Springdale | Springdale, AR |
| J'Marcus Webb | North Mesquite | Mesquite, TX |
| Dan Wenger | St. Thomas Aquinas | Ft. Lauderdale, FL |
| Zek Wiley | Orem | Orem, UT |
| Trent Williams | Longview | Longview, TX |

| | HIGH SCHOOL | HOMETOWN |
|---------------------|------------------|----------------------|
| Craig Wilson | Thornton | Harvey, IL |
| Kevin Young | Central Catholic | Clearwater, FL |
| Cameron Zipp | Fontainebleau | Mandeville, LA |
| DEFENSIVE LINEMEN | | |
| | HIGH SCHOOL | HOMETOWN |
| Jason Adjepong | Carteret | Carteret, NJ |
| Carlos Adrane | East Side | Newark, NJ |
| Conan Amituanai | Poly | Long Beach, CA |
| Ben Anderson | South | Aiken, SC |
| Chris Arthurs | Wheaton South | Wheaton, IL |
| Jason Brace | Spanaway Lake | Spanaway Lake, WA |
| Adrian Clayborn | Webster Groves | Webster Groves, MO |
| Ricardo Crawford | Dorsey | Los Angeles, CA |
| Wayne Daniels | Kilgore | Kilgore, TX |
| Charles Deas | Dillard | Ft. Lauderdale, FL |
| Alex Dekle | Statesboro | Statesboro, GA |
| Cameron Elisara | Ferris | Spokane, WA |
| Greg Elleby | South Columbus | Tabor City, NC |
| Brian Ellis | S. Grand Prairie | Grand Prairie, TX |
| Kenrick Ellis | Leonard | Lake Worth, FL |
| Maurice Evans | Christ The King | Middle Village, NY |
| Reggie Gibson | DeMatha | Hyattsville, MD |
| Thaddeus Gibson | Euclid | Euclid, OH |
| John Graves | Meadowbrook | Richmond, VA |
| Raven Gray | Enterprise | Enterprise, AL |
| Rodney Gnat | Wolfson | Jacksonville, FL |
| Robert Hall | Hawkinsville | Hawkinsville, GA |
| Jon Hargis | Red Mountain | Mesa, AZ |
| Justin Hargrove | Baldwin | Pittsburgh, PA |
| Aundre Henderson | Manual | Louisville, KY |
| Ricky Henry | Burke | Omaha, NE |
| Jonathan Hollins | Redemptorist | Baton Rouge, LA |
| Joseph Jackson | B.T. Washington | Miami, FL |
| George Johnson | Glassboro | Glassboro, NJ |
| Cleveland Jones | Dorsey | Los Angeles, CA |
| Richard Jones | La Marque | La Marque, TX |
| Jason Kates | Bishop McDevitt | Harrisburg, PA |
| Chris Lewis | Clovis West | Fresno, CA |
| Lazarius Livingston | Ruston | Ruston, LA |
| Pryce Macon | Carroll | Corpus Christi, TX |
| Daniel Mafoe | Carson | Carson, CA |
| Colin Miller | Centreville | Clifton, VA |
| Jeff Miller | Westlake | Westlake Village, CA |
| Gerald McCoy | Southeast | Oklahoma City, OK |
| Paddy Mullen | DeSmet | St. Louis, MO |
| Zach Niusulu | Barstow | Barstow, CA |
| Reggie Odom | Deland | Deland, FL |
| Jared Odrick | Lebanon | Lebanon, PA |
| Jamil Paris | Sebastian River | Sebastian, FL |
| John Paul | Immokalee | Immokalee, FL |
| Brandon Pete | Millard West | Omaha, NE |
| Jason Pinkston | Baldwin | Pittsburgh, PA |
| Kadem Ray | Nashville | Nashville, AR |
| Leslie Ray | Lee | Midland, TX |
| John Romero | Salpointe | Tucson, AZ |
| Robert Rose | Glenville | Cleveland, OH |
| John Ryan | St. Ignatius | Cleveland, OH |
| Darius Savage | Morse | San Diego, CA |
| Jarrod Shaw | Northside | Lafayette, LA |
| Kyle Sheehan | Grayson | Loganville, GA |
| Blake Smith | E. Roosevelt | Greenbelt, MD |
| Gavin Smith | Wakefield | Raleigh, NC |
| D'Anthony Smith | Pickering | Pickering, LA |
| Travis Steckbauer | D. C. Everest | Schofield, WI |
| Milton Talbert | Hattiesburg | Hattiesburg, MS |
| Phillip Taylor | Gwynn Park | Brandywine, MD |
| Marcus Tillman | Franklin | Meadville, MS |
| Matangi Tonga | Aragon | San Mateo, CA |
| Johnnie Troutman | Pemberton | Pemberton, NJ |
| Toby Turpin | Los Alamitos | Los Alamitos, CA |
| Kallen Wade | Withrow | Cincinnati, OH |

50 JUNIORS TO WATCH

| HIGH SCHOOL | HOMETOWN |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| J.B. Walton | Lackey |
| Don'tay Ward | Waco |
| J.R. Ware | Lee |
| Jeremiah Warren | Bay |
| Chaz Washington | Destrehan |
| Brandon Wood | Haralson County |
| Al Woods | Elton |
| | Elton, LA |

LINEBACKERS

| HIGH SCHOOL | HOMETOWN |
|--------------------|-------------------|
| Navarro Bowman | Suitland |
| Mario Brown | Greene Central |
| Joe Cason | Southeast Polk |
| Blake Collier | Northwest |
| Brandon Crow | Comanche |
| Jacob Cutrera | Acadiana |
| Ryan D'Imperio | Washington Twp. |
| Dustin Doe | Hamilton County |
| Dustin Earnest | Texas |
| A.J. Edds | Greenwood |
| LeBrandon Glover | Pensacola |
| Kevin Green | North Chicago |
| Brandon Jackson | Briarcrest |
| Cory Jackson | University |
| Dustin Jefferson | Kankakee |
| Darryl Johnson | Centennial |
| Jerome Jones | Ursuline |
| Andre Hatchett | Warren Central |
| Akeem Hebron | Good Counsel |
| Ross Homan | Coldwater |
| Paul Homer | Millard North |
| Joel Humphrey | Liberty |
| Jeremiah Hunter | Manheim Central |
| Brandon Jackson | Briarcrest |
| Stevie Johnson | Spotsylvania |
| Jason Kolodziej | Thomas Jefferson |
| Anthony Leonard | McKeesport |
| Anthony Lewis | Halton City |
| Dan Loheyde | Gateway |
| Antonio Lowery | Columbus |
| Elijah McCall | Bassett |
| James McCluskey | Billerica |
| Tyler McKnight | Maine South |
| Jarrell Miller | Highland Springs |
| Andre Morales | Liberty |
| Mike Morrissey | Stevenson |
| Adrian Moten | Gwynne Park |
| Nate Nix | Thomas Jefferson |
| Justin Nonu | Oceanside |
| Brandon Ogletree | McKinney |
| Marcel Pope | Southridge |
| Dwight Roberson | St. Bonaventure |
| Walter Rodney | Armwood |
| Ricky Sapp | Ehrhardt |
| Tyrone Singleton | Hempstead |
| Brandon Spikes | Crest |
| Craig Stevens | Lincoln |
| Rya Stratis | Manchester |
| Scott Szpyra | New Hampton Prep |
| Ben Terry | Capistrano Valley |
| James Thomas | Ely |
| Demaurier Thompson | White |
| Doug Thompson | Armwood |
| Osahon Tongo | Naperville North |
| Andrew Trowbridge | Warner Christian |
| Tobi Umodu | South Hills |
| Greg Webster | Woodland Hills |
| Donnell Williams | Madison |
| Nate Williams | Central Catholic |
| Kion Wilson | Raines |
| Andrew Woodard | Ottumwa |
| Marcus Yarbrough | Bonita Vista |
| | Chula Vista, CA |

DEFENSIVE BACKS

| HIGH SCHOOL | HOMETOWN |
|---------------|-----------------|
| Darin Baldwin | South Dade |
| Deon Beasley | W. Orange Stark |
| | Orange, TX |

| HIGH SCHOOL | HOMETOWN |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| Aaron Berry | Bishop McDevitt |
| Cody Blevins | Miamisburg |
| Greg Bolling | Gateway |
| Aaron Brown | Lower Burrell |
| Steve Brown | Columbus East |
| Mike Callahan | Brophy Prep |
| Paul Chaney | University |
| Jovani Chappel | Trotwood-Madison |
| Kurt Coleman | Northmont |
| Ronald Cousin | McDonogh |
| Perrish Cox | University |
| Dominique Davenport | Warner Robins |
| Andy Davis | Briarwood Christ. |
| Wesley Davis | Steele Canyon |
| Jai Eugene | Destrehan |
| Devon Ford | Bishop McDevitt |
| Deron Fontenot | S. Grand Prairie |
| Dominique Franks | Tulsa Union |
| Darryl Gamble | Bainbridge |
| Jordan Gafford | Kilbourne |
| Jashaad Gaines | Las Vegas |
| Jakeem Gregory | Snider |
| Calvin Harrison | Richland Northeast |
| James Henry | Clemens |
| Lance Hewitt | Lufkin |
| Ryan Hill | Rickards |
| Kevin Holloway | Parkway Academy |
| Robert Joseph | Memorial |
| Vincent Joseph | Poly |
| Dan Kreamer | Evangel |
| DeMorrio Leverett | Auburndale |
| John Maddux | West Catholic |
| Byron Maxwell | Ft. Dorchester |
| DeAndre McDaniel | Godby |
| Jake Merrill | Gig Harbor |
| Dwayne Priest | Fleming |
| Jordan Pugh | Plano West |
| DeNathan Robinson | Phoebus |
| Patrick Robinson | South Miami |
| Lance Smith | Grand Blanc |
| Marcus Udell | Godby |
| Josh Van Buren | Terrebonne |
| Darrin Walls | Woodland Hills |
| Anthony Webb | Wilmer-Hutchins |
| Alex Whipple | Sheldon |
| Malcolm Williams | S. Grand Prairie |
| Shareece Wright | Colton |
| | Colton, CA |

KICKERS

| HIGH SCHOOL | HOMETOWN |
|-----------------|----------------|
| Dustin Abrams | Los Alamitos |
| Andrew Aguila | St. John Bosco |
| Brad Barnhouse | Independence |
| Blake Baublits | North |
| Matt Bosher | Jupiter |
| Eric Buckenmyer | Woodbridge |
| Sam Buckman | Minnetonka |
| Jim Caldwell | Oxford |
| Dusty Castille | Carencro |
| Kyle Day | Sahuarita |
| Stefan Demos | Horizon |
| Brock Florio | Buhach Colony |
| Arix Goodman | Cherry Creek |
| Justin Gomes | McDowell |
| Hunter Lawrence | Boerne |
| Kevin Ortega | Carroll |
| Kyle Peterson | South Hills |
| Adam Smith | Camp Hill |
| Steven Woodward | Jenks |

ALABAMA

Jared Cooper, OL, East Brewton Neal
Zach Smith, QB/DB, Blountsville Susan Moore

ARIZONA

James Brooks, DL, Flagstaff

ARKANSAS

Kodi Burns, QB, Fort Smith Northside
Terrance Garrett, LB, Wynne

CALIFORNIA

Josh Allen, OL, Rancho Cucamonga Los Osos
Jimmy Clausen, QB, Westlake Vill. Oaks Christian
Chris Gilippo, LB, Anaheim Servite
Charles Gatewood, OL, Pomona
Kenny Rowe, DL, Long Beach Poly
Malcolm Smith, WR/DB, Woodland Hills Taft
Marc Tyler, RB, Westlake Village Oaks Christian
Donovan Warren, DB, Long Beach Poly

COLORADO

Donnie Reed, WR, Lakewood

FLORIDA

Noel Devine, RB, North Fort Myers
Stephen Garcia, QB, Tampa Jefferson
Daidren Hill, WR, Panama City Rutherford
Chris Rainey, RB, Lakeland
Paul Wilson, WR, Lakeland

GEORGIA

Eric Berry, RB/WR, Fairburn Creekside
Justin Gainey, RB, Homerville Clinch County
Caleb King, RB/DB, Lilburn Parkview

HAWAII

Jeremiah Ostrowski, WR, Honolulu Punahoa

INDIANA

Darren Evans, RB, Indianapolis Warren Central
Jeremy Finch, DB, Indianapolis Warren Central

LOUISIANA

Joe McKnight, RB/KR, River Ridge John Curtis

NEVADA

DeAngelo Jones, RB, Las Vegas Foothill

NEW JERSEY

Alex Silvestro, DL, Paulsboro

NEW YORK

Chris Hart, RB, Nedrow Onondaga

NORTH CAROLINA

Carter Sharpe, RB, Fayetteville Smith
John Stamper, DB/KR, Clemmons West Forsyth

OHIO

Chazz Anderson, QB, Pickerington Central
Frank Edmonds, RB, Lakewood St. Edward's
Rocco Pentello, QB, Westerville South
Devon Torrence, RB, Canton South

OKLAHOMA

Stephen Hoge, PK, Okla. City Putnam City North

OREGON

Kyle Singler, TE, South Medford

PENNSYLVANIA

Pat Bostick, QB, Manheim Central
Josh Marks, DL, Catawissa Southern Columbia
Chris McGee, DB, Boyertown
Steve Paskorz, RB/LB, Allison Park Hampton
Nick Sukay, DB, Greensburg Central Catholic

SOUTH CAROLINA

Will Korn, QB, Duncan Byrnes

TEXAS

Patrick Dorsey, LB, Houston Yates

Michael Dugat, RB, Dayton

Andre Jones, DL, El Paso Andress

Alvin Jordan, LB, Dallas Greenhill

Ryan Mallett, QB, Texarkana Texas

WASHINGTON

Nate Williams, RB, Seattle Kennedy

WISCONSIN

John Clay, RB, Racine Park

25 PREP TEAMS TO WATCH

BY DOUG HUFF

(listed alphabetically by states)

HOOVER, AL (15-0 in '04)

Nine starters return from this unbeaten team that will be seeking a state-record fourth straight Class 6A title and fifth finals berth in six seasons. Key seniors include wide receiver/kick returner Cornelius Williams, third-year offensive tackle Brian Morgan, running backs Chris Graham and Nathaniel Hepburn, defensive back Max Lerner and defensive end Duwan Smith. Touted juniors are defensive lineman Josh Chapman and offensive guard Michael Hayes. The first-year quarterback is junior Ross Wilson, brother of ex-Hoover standout and current University of Alabama QB John Parker Wilson.

SPRINGDALE, AR (12-1)

The Bulldogs are poised to make some national noise this season after advancing to the state Class 5A semifinals last year while outscoring teams by a 35-point margin. Nine offensive and seven defensive regulars return, including preseason All-America quarterback Mitch Mustain. He passed for 2,169 yards and 20 TDs and rushed for 14 scores as a junior. His favorite receivers are wideouts Damian Williams and Andrew Norman and tight end Ben Cleveland. Matt Clinkscale rushed for 900 yards and 15 TDs last season. Mammoth tackle Bartley Webb (6-7, 290 pounds) anchors the offensive line. The schedule includes defending Louisiana champion Evangel Christian and Oklahoma power Jenks.

MISSION VIEJO, CA (14-0)

The Diablos ended last season ranked No. 2 in the land and have won 55 of their last 56 games. Eleven starters return—six on offense and five on defense. Replacing Parade National Player of the Year Mark Sanchez, a USC recruit, at quarterback will be his backup, R.J. Toman, who passed for 650 yards and six TDs as a junior. Two preseason All-Americans return on offense in fullback Chane Moline and tight end Konrad Reuland. Junior running back Keegan Gogerty is back, along with third-year center Cooper Dodd, offensive guard David Burton and wide receiver Sean Fitzgerald, who's a three-sport athlete. Middle linebacker Matt Harris and cornerbacks Garrett Rubio and Chris Holmsler anchor the defense.

POLY, LONG BEACH, CA (13-1)

The Jackrabbits are always known for their speed but this year's squad could be the fastest in several years. The 29 returning lettermen from the school's 16th Southern Section title squad include 14 starters, with nine on defense. Key senior returnees are wide receiver Terrence Austin, defensive back/wide receiver Vincent Joseph, running back Troy Guthrie, defensive end/linebacker Jurrey Casey, wide receiver/defensive back Travon Patterson, fullback/linebacker Ryan Smith and offensive linemen Matthias Duran.

BOLLES, JACKSONVILLE, FL (14-0)

The Bulldogs won a record eighth state crown in Class 3A last season and will compete in 2A this season. Bolles usually reloads and will try for their fourth straight state final berth. Six offensive and four defensive starters return, with last year's backup quarterback, Alex Hepler, running the offense. Running back Shawn Chapas, tackle Cannon Gaskin and junior center Chance Raines return to the lineup. The top tackler last season, linebacker Michael Garcia, and back Donald Manns anchor the defense. Veteran coach Corky Rogers is Florida's all-time winningest mentor.

B.T. WASHINGTON, MIAMI, FL (11-1)

Dade County's top-ranked team should make another serious bid for a state title after advancing to the Class 4A semifinals last season. Washington has several key members back, including athletic quarterback Alwan Lee, wide receiver/cornerback/kick returner Rudell

Lewin, defensive lineman Malcolm Jackson and rangy linebacker Joseph Jackson. Washington, Lee and Lewin were All-Dade honorees last season.

CHAMINADE-MADONNA, HOLLYWOOD, FL (11-1)

This Florida Class 2A power returns seven offensive and five defensive starters from a team that went unbeaten in the regular season last year. The small-school contender has beefed up its schedule to include not only touted B.T. Washington of Miami but defending Texas Class 5A-1 champion Tyler Lee. The senior veterans are led by running back Alex Blucher and strong safety Jordan Delegal. Key juniors include defensive backs Akeem Auguste and Ryan Ruckle. A promising sophomore is quarterback Chad Rynning.

LOWNDES, VALDOSTA, GA (15-0)

The Vikings celebrated their third state Class 5A title with their first unbeaten team last season. Seven offensive and eight defensive regulars return for their title defense, including six third-year regulars—quarterback Doug Belk, center Andrew Dunn, defensive tackle Asmar Ceasar, linebacker Antonio Townsend and defensive backs Jermel Demps and Steve Harden. The top college prospect could be tight end/linebacker/punter Matt Harper, who's also a baseball standout. Placekicker Curtis Schmidt is a weapon. Sophomore wide receiver Darius Parriet started as a freshman.

PARKVIEW, LILBURN, GA (13-2)

The Panthers return eight starters on both sides of the ball from last season's state Class 5A runner-up squad. The senior veterans include two-way tackles Greg Billinger and Brian Lee, wide receiver/cornerback Steve Esmonde, tight end Michael Parker, two-way end Steven McCray, kicker Josh Veal and last year's top tackler, defensive end Gator Parker. The offense features three juniors in all-state running back Caleb King, two-way back Antonio Mohn and placekicker Blake Brettschneider. Replacing graduated quarterback Jeff Witt could be his brother, junior Patrick Witt, or senior Scott Steele.

WARNER ROBINS, GA (14-0-1)

The Demons captured a state Class AAAA title in their first year after moving down from the largest classification. Fifteen starters—seven offense and eight defense—will anchor the defending champs. Junior quarterback Mark Wright is joined by three skilled seniors in running back Dartez Walker and receivers Larry Richardson and Judd Holland. Veteran offensive linemen include junior center Robert Luciano and seniors Adam Scott and Stephen Clark. Three college prospects spark the defense—strong safety Dominique Davenport, end Antonio Felder and cornerback Maurice Gray. Tackle Joseph Wood and linebacker Jordan Singletary, both seniors, also return.

LINCOLN WAY EAST, FRANKFORT, IL (8-5)

The Griffins will be seeking their first state Class 8A title in their fifth season after advancing to the semifinals last year. Seven offensive and eight defensive starters return for their senior season with high hopes. Fullback/linebacker Gus Olofsson is a three-year regular. Twin vets are wide receiver Joe Mau and defensive back Alex Mau. Quarterback Anthony Kropf and wide receiver Hank Johnston are battle-tested. The defense includes back Pat Geary, outside linebackers Cory Swaim and Sean Lynch and linemen Colin Luczynski, Jake Bewley and Corey Smith. Wade Novak and Keenan Clifford anchor the offensive line.

WARREN CENTRAL, INDIANAPOLIS, IN (14-1)

The Warriors are loaded for bear in a bid for a third straight state Class 5A title. Central returns 17 starters—10 offensive, seven defensive and all

ree specialists. Two touted juniors are among the nation's best: running back Darren Evans, the EA Sports National Sophomore of the Year, and safety Jeremy Finch. Evans rushed for 2,245 yards and 27 TDs last season. Finch had seven interceptions. The offensive line includes four players who weigh more than 295 pounds: all-stater Jason Onyeagu, Ezekiel Hubbard, Brian Beeler and Jacob McLaurin. Quarterback Dexter Taylor turns after accounting for 28 TDs last season.

VANGEL CHRISTIAN, SHREVEPORT, LA (12-3)

The Eagles are reloading after finishing strong last season to capture their fourth state Class 5A title. Five offensive and seven defensive regulars are back. Mammoth lineman Doug Stroud (6-8, 340) anchors an offense that includes three top wide receivers in all-stater Jeff Hulett, Chase Jennings and junior Jeremy Little. The quarterback will be Alan Rogers, who is making a return to the program. On defense, three linemen and four secondary veterans lead the way. The linemen are seniors Greg Greathouse and Jon Bell and junior Jared Barron. Free safety Dan Kreamer is a key defensive back, along with Ramon Broadway and Derrick Williams, plus junior Pat Chitman.

SOUTH, MIDDLETOWN, NJ (12-0)

New Jersey's top-ranked team enters the season with 24 straight wins and a veteran cast headed by record-setting running back Jonathon Moreno, the EA Sports National Junior of the Year. Moreno, a preseason All-American and two-time all-stater, should shatter state career records for touchdowns (101) and points (656). He has already accumulated 96 TDs and 584 points. Last season, he rushed for 2,030 yards and scored 37 TDs. He's one of nine offensive regulars returning to go with five defensive starters.

INDEPENDENCE, CHARLOTTE, NC (15-0)

The Patriots enter the season with the nation's longest active win streak (77 games) and will bid for a sixth straight state Class 4-AA championship with a familiar face on the sideline. He's head coach Tom Knotts, the 2003 EA Sports National Coach of the Year who guided Independence to the first four titles and 62 straight wins before spending a year on the Duke University staff. A lot of new faces will greet Knotts, but two familiar ones will be all-state offensive lineman Pierre Andrews (6-2, 275), the top blocker on a team that averaged 54 points and 500 yards a game. Also back is prolific placekicker Brad Barnhouse, who booted 100 conversions last season.

COLERAIN, CINCINNATI, OH (15-0)

The 2004 Cardinals were one of the most dominating Ohio teams in several years and return 13 players who started games last season for this Division I state champ. Two mammoth tackles anchor the offensive line—touted Connor Smith (6-6, 295) and Eric Ornella (6-4, 285)—while fleet Terrence Sherrer and Kyle Lumpkin are touted running backs. Rico Booker returns at wide receiver and Brandon Vyatt will be the center. Junior nose guard Calvin Dixon started as a sophomore. Senior defenders include linebackers Tyler Moeller, Cobrani Mixon and Mike Scherdt, plus safety Brian Zainhart. Punter/placekicker Matt Schulte also returns.

GLENVILLE, CLEVELAND, OH (12-2)

The Tarblooders have reloaded from last year's squad that advanced to the state Division I semifinals, and seek to take the final step for the school's first-ever state football crown. One of Ohio's top boys track programs, Glenville has produced several touted college prospects the last few years. This year should be no different. The veterans include cornerback/wide receiver/running back Raymond Small, cornerback/wide receiver Raymond Fisher and touted defensive end Robert Rose.

UNION, TULSA, OK (13-1)

The Redskins will be seeking their third state Class 6A crown in four years with a lineup that includes five offensive regulars and six defensive starters from last season. The main concern is finding a new quarterback, where senior Casey Horton and sophomore Brandon Rogers are fighting for the job. The top college prospect is cornerback Dominique Franks, who will double as a running back. Other senior veterans include three third-year offensive linemen—Casey Thurber,

Seth Cowan and Kyle Crafts. They're joined by touted junior tackle Matt Romine. Three defensive linemen return in Chase Nelson, Clint Fowler and Terrill Jimoh. Linebacker Ryan Hoyt was the team's leading tackler in '04.

BISHOP McDEVITT, HARRISBURG, PA (10-3)

The team to beat in Pennsylvania this season could be this talent-laden squad that returns 16 starters—eight on both sides of the ball—from the state Class 4A semifinalist. The leader of the pack is preseason All-America running back LeSean McCoy, the state's Class 4A Player of the Year. McCoy rushed for more than 2,800 yards and scored 40 TDs last season, including 1,100 yards and 16 TDs in three playoff games. McCoy is one of six third-season regulars on hand. Others are highly recruited two-way lineman Jason Kates (6-4, 305) and quarterback Jeremy Ricker, plus offensive tackle Tucker Baumbach (6-7, 315) and defensive backs Eric McGovern and Vince Comasco.

BYRNES, DUNCAN, SC (13-1)

Seventy lettermen return as Byrnes seeks to extend its state Class 4A title string to four straight years. The 15 returning starters include seven on offense and eight on defense. Junior quarterback Will Korn already has major-college scholarship offers after passing for 2,977 yards and 31 TDs and rushing for 642 yards and nine scores last season. The top senior is preseason All-America defensive back Prince Miller, who also plays wide receiver and returns kicks. Other top secondary players are Josh Williams, Kendall Glenn and LaMarr Bomar. Korn will throw to wide receivers Matt Quinn and Jamar Anderson.

CARROLL, SOUTHLAKE, TX (16-0)

The Dragons enter the season as the new "King of the Hill" nationally. Last season, Carroll capped a perfect season with its second state Class 5A-2 title in three years and added the mythical national-ranking crown. Replacing quarterback Chase Daniel, the EA Sports National Player of the Year and a Missouri recruit, will be backup Greg McElroy, who impressed in summer camps. The roster includes 37 lettermen, with five offensive and six defensive starters returning. The three top receivers are back in Clint Renfro, McKay Jacobson and James Allen. The offensive line is anchored by Mike Prince and Bryce Buford. Key defenders include linebacker Patrick Benoit, end Michael Boydston, safety Joseph Agnew, tackle Adam Powers and cornerbacks Scott Simpson and junior Arius Ford. Carroll has won 47 of its last 48 games.

LEE, TYLER, TX (12-3)

The defending state Class 5A-1 champion Raiders must rebuild the offensive line but return five offensive plus four defensive regulars this season. Third-year quarterback Preston Hill runs the attack, which includes tailback Jason Williams, wide receivers Jonathan Williams and Jacob Amie and junior tight end Tyler Fleet.

LONGVIEW, TX (12-1)

The Lobos return six starters on each side of the ball and will face one of the most challenging schedules in the Lone Star State. The opponents include defending state Class 5A-1 champion Tyler Lee, Lufkin and two Louisiana teams that met for the Class 5A title last year—champion Evangel Christian and runner-up West Monroe. The offense includes two touted prospects in tailback Vondrell McGee and lineman Trent Williams (6-5, 285). McGee rushed for 2,039 yards and 27 TDs last season.

WESTFIELD, SPRING, TX (13-2)

The Mustangs return 12 starters—seven offense, five defense—from a state Class 5A-1 runner-up squad. Leading the way is quarterback Pierre Beasley, who passed for 16 TDs and scored 12 times last season.

LANDSTOWN, VIRGINIA BEACH, VA (14-0)

Preseason All-American Percy Harvin returns at wide receiver and cornerback to lead 12 starters who return from a state Division 6 title team. Harvin, who can also play running back and quarterback, racked up 476 total yards and four touchdowns, plus intercepted three passes in last year's finals.



DIVISION I-A '04 NCAA STATISTICS

INDIVIDUAL LEADERS

PASSING EFFICIENCY (MINIMUM OF 15 ATTEMPTS PER GAME)

| | YEAR | G | ATT | CMP | PCT | INT | INT% | YDS | YDS/ATT | TD | PCT | RATING |
|-----------------------------------|------|----|-----|-----|-------|-----|------|------|---------|----|-------|--------|
| Stefan LeFors, Louisville | SR | 12 | 257 | 189 | 73.54 | 3 | 1.17 | 2596 | 10.10 | 20 | 7.78 | 181.7 |
| Alex Smith, Utah | JR | 12 | 317 | 214 | 67.51 | 4 | 1.26 | 2952 | 9.31 | 32 | 10.09 | 176.5 |
| Jason Campbell, Auburn | SR | 13 | 270 | 188 | 69.63 | 7 | 2.59 | 2700 | 10.00 | 20 | 7.41 | 172.9 |
| Omar Jacobs, Bowling Green | SO | 12 | 462 | 309 | 66.88 | 4 | 0.87 | 4002 | 8.66 | 41 | 8.87 | 167.2 |
| Bruce Gradkowski, Toledo | JR | 13 | 399 | 280 | 70.18 | 8 | 2.01 | 3518 | 8.82 | 35 | 8.97 | 162.6 |
| Jason White, Oklahoma | SR | 13 | 390 | 255 | 65.38 | 9 | 2.31 | 3205 | 8.22 | 35 | 8.97 | 159.4 |
| Matt Leinart, Southern California | JR | 13 | 412 | 269 | 65.29 | 6 | 1.46 | 3322 | 8.06 | 33 | 8.01 | 156.5 |
| Aaron Rodgers, California | JR | 12 | 316 | 209 | 66.14 | 8 | 2.53 | 2566 | 8.12 | 24 | 7.59 | 154.3 |
| Lester Ricard, Tulane | SO | 9 | 231 | 143 | 61.90 | 9 | 3.90 | 1881 | 8.14 | 21 | 9.09 | 152.5 |
| Kyle Orton, Purdue | SR | 11 | 389 | 236 | 60.67 | 5 | 1.29 | 3090 | 7.94 | 31 | 7.97 | 151.1 |
| Buck Pierce, New Mexico State | SR | 11 | 285 | 191 | 67.02 | 5 | 1.75 | 2253 | 7.91 | 16 | 5.61 | 148.4 |
| David Greene, Georgia | SR | 12 | 299 | 175 | 58.53 | 4 | 1.34 | 2508 | 8.39 | 20 | 6.69 | 148.4 |
| Jared Zabransky, Boise State | SO | 12 | 327 | 206 | 63.00 | 12 | 3.67 | 2927 | 8.95 | 16 | 4.89 | 147.0 |
| Darell Hackney, UAB | JR | 12 | 358 | 197 | 55.03 | 8 | 2.23 | 3070 | 8.58 | 26 | 7.26 | 146.6 |
| Gino Guidugli, Cincinnati | SR | 11 | 342 | 210 | 61.40 | 8 | 2.34 | 2633 | 7.70 | 26 | 7.60 | 146.5 |
| Chris Leak, Florida | SO | 12 | 399 | 238 | 59.65 | 12 | 3.01 | 3197 | 8.01 | 29 | 7.27 | 144.9 |
| Rasheed Marshall, West Virginia | SR | 12 | 242 | 144 | 59.50 | 9 | 3.72 | 1886 | 7.79 | 19 | 7.85 | 143.4 |
| Donovan Woods, Oklahoma St. | FR | 12 | 187 | 97 | 51.87 | 5 | 2.67 | 1628 | 8.71 | 13 | 6.95 | 142.6 |
| Joshua Haldi, Northern Ill. | SR | 9 | 179 | 94 | 52.51 | 4 | 2.23 | 1384 | 7.73 | 15 | 8.38 | 140.6 |
| Charlie Frye, Akron | SR | 11 | 346 | 220 | 63.58 | 8 | 2.31 | 2623 | 7.58 | 18 | 5.20 | 139.8 |
| Sonny Cumbie, Texas Tech | SR | 12 | 642 | 421 | 65.58 | 18 | 2.80 | 4742 | 7.39 | 32 | 4.98 | 138.5 |
| Andrew Walter, Arizona St. | SR | 11 | 426 | 244 | 57.28 | 9 | 2.11 | 3150 | 7.39 | 30 | 7.04 | 138.4 |
| Brock Berlin, Miami (Fla.) | SR | 12 | 348 | 195 | 56.03 | 6 | 1.72 | 2680 | 7.70 | 22 | 6.32 | 138.1 |
| Clint Marks, Middle Tennessee | SO | 11 | 368 | 259 | 70.38 | 14 | 3.80 | 2749 | 7.47 | 14 | 3.80 | 138.1 |
| Josh Bettis, Miami (Ohio) | JR | 13 | 444 | 268 | 60.36 | 14 | 3.15 | 3510 | 7.91 | 23 | 5.18 | 137.6 |
| Reggie McNeal, Texas A&M | JR | 12 | 344 | 200 | 58.14 | 4 | 1.16 | 2791 | 8.11 | 14 | 4.07 | 137.4 |

TOTAL OFFENSE

| | RUSHING | | | | PASSING | | | | TOTAL OFFENSE | | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------|----|-----|------|---------|------|-----|------|---------------|------|--------|-------|
| | YEAR | G | CAR | GAIN | LOSS | NET | ATT | YDS | PLAYS | YDS | YDS/PL | YDS/G |
| Sonny Cumbie, Texas Tech | SR | 12 | 52 | 49 | 216 | -167 | 642 | 4742 | 694 | 4575 | 6.59 | 381.3 |
| Omar Jacobs, Bowling Green | SO | 12 | 95 | 415 | 115 | 300 | 462 | 4002 | 557 | 4302 | 7.72 | 358.5 |
| Timmy Chang, Hawaii | SR | 13 | 37 | 123 | 108 | 15 | 602 | 4258 | 639 | 4273 | 6.69 | 328.7 |
| Joshua Cribbs, Kent State | SR | 10 | 170 | 1151 | 258 | 893 | 335 | 2215 | 505 | 3108 | 6.15 | 310.8 |
| Alex Smith, Utah | JR | 12 | 135 | 774 | 143 | 631 | 317 | 2952 | 452 | 3583 | 7.93 | 298.6 |
| Matt Bohnet, Eastern Mich. | JR | 11 | 100 | 562 | 138 | 424 | 434 | 2807 | 534 | 3231 | 6.05 | 293.7 |
| Reggie McNeal, Texas A&M | JR | 12 | 151 | 932 | 214 | 718 | 344 | 2791 | 495 | 3509 | 7.09 | 292.4 |
| Kyle Orton, Purdue | SR | 11 | 80 | 284 | 172 | 112 | 389 | 3090 | 469 | 3202 | 6.83 | 291.1 |
| Derek Anderson, Oregon State | SR | 12 | 75 | 147 | 299 | -152 | 515 | 3615 | 590 | 3463 | 5.87 | 288.6 |
| Bruce Gradkowski, Toledo | JR | 13 | 91 | 331 | 140 | 191 | 399 | 3518 | 490 | 3709 | 7.57 | 285.3 |
| Walter Washington, Temple | JR | 11 | 222 | 1104 | 215 | 889 | 332 | 2207 | 554 | 3096 | 5.59 | 281.5 |
| Ryan Hart, Rutgers | JR | 11 | 46 | 74 | 167 | -93 | 453 | 3154 | 499 | 3061 | 6.13 | 278.3 |
| Josh Bettis, Miami (Ohio) | JR | 13 | 83 | 314 | 228 | 86 | 444 | 3510 | 527 | 3596 | 6.82 | 276.6 |
| Andrew Walter, Arizona State | SR | 11 | 58 | 112 | 224 | -112 | 426 | 3150 | 484 | 3038 | 6.28 | 276.2 |
| Dan Orlovsky, Connecticut | SR | 12 | 32 | 79 | 120 | -41 | 457 | 3354 | 489 | 3313 | 6.78 | 276.1 |
| Chris Leak, Florida | SO | 12 | 61 | 229 | 150 | 79 | 399 | 3197 | 460 | 3276 | 7.12 | 273.0 |
| Jared Zabransky, Boise State | SO | 12 | 130 | 570 | 244 | 326 | 327 | 2927 | 457 | 3253 | 7.12 | 271.1 |
| Tyler Palko, Pittsburgh | SO | 12 | 129 | 469 | 330 | 139 | 409 | 3067 | 538 | 3206 | 5.96 | 267.2 |
| Steven Jyles, La.-Monroe | JR | 11 | 150 | 703 | 116 | 587 | 366 | 2322 | 516 | 2909 | 5.64 | 264.5 |
| Jerry Babb, La.-Lafayette | SO | 11 | 101 | 630 | 132 | 498 | 385 | 2365 | 486 | 2863 | 5.89 | 260.3 |
| Clint Marks, Middle Tennessee | SO | 11 | 73 | 242 | 129 | 113 | 368 | 2749 | 441 | 2862 | 6.49 | 260.2 |
| Brett Banaszek, Northwestern | JR | 12 | 83 | 361 | 103 | 258 | 460 | 2838 | 543 | 3096 | 5.70 | 258.0 |
| Kevin Kolb, Houston | SO | 11 | 118 | 354 | 303 | 51 | 353 | 2766 | 471 | 2817 | 5.98 | 256.1 |
| Darell Hackney, UAB | JR | 12 | 81 | 196 | 240 | -44 | 358 | 3070 | 439 | 3026 | 6.89 | 252.2 |
| Matt Leinart, Southern California | JR | 13 | 49 | 143 | 187 | -44 | 412 | 3322 | 461 | 3278 | 7.11 | 252.2 |
| Danny Wimprine, Memphis | SR | 12 | 57 | 187 | 75 | 112 | 398 | 2892 | 455 | 3004 | 6.60 | 250.3 |

ALL-PURPOSE RUNNING

| | YEAR | G | RUSH | REC | PR | KOR | PLAYS | YDS/PL | YDS | YDS/G |
|----------------------------------|------|----|------|------|-----|-----|-------|--------|------|--------|
| Darren Sproles, Kansas State | SR | 11 | 1318 | 223 | 34 | 492 | 303 | 6.82 | 2067 | 187.91 |
| DeAngelo Williams, Memphis | JR | 12 | 1948 | 210 | 0 | 72 | 335 | 6.66 | 2230 | 185.83 |
| Garrett Wolfe, Northern Illinois | SO | 11 | 1656 | 117 | 0 | 231 | 277 | 7.23 | 2004 | 182.18 |
| Jamario Thomas, North Texas | FR | 10 | 1801 | 14 | 0 | 0 | 288 | 6.30 | 1815 | 181.50 |
| Reggie Bush, Southern California | SO | 13 | 908 | 509 | 376 | 537 | 231 | 10.09 | 2330 | 179.23 |
| J.J. Arrington, California | SR | 12 | 2018 | 121 | 0 | 0 | 310 | 6.90 | 2139 | 178.25 |
| Cedric Benson, Texas | SR | 12 | 1834 | 179 | 0 | 0 | 348 | 5.78 | 2013 | 167.75 |
| Andre Hall, South Florida | JR | 11 | 1357 | 149 | 0 | 332 | 244 | 7.53 | 1838 | 167.09 |
| Jerry Seymour, Central Mich. | SO | 11 | 1284 | 413 | 0 | 105 | 313 | 5.76 | 1802 | 163.82 |
| Cory Rodgers, TCU | SO | 11 | 35 | 836 | 183 | 723 | 122 | 14.57 | 1777 | 161.55 |
| Alvin Pearman, Virginia | SR | 12 | 1037 | 402 | 314 | 185 | 257 | 7.54 | 1938 | 161.50 |
| Ryan Moats, Louisiana Tech | JR | 12 | 1774 | 116 | 0 | 0 | 303 | 6.24 | 1890 | 157.50 |
| Pierre Thomas, Illinois | SO | 11 | 893 | 95 | 0 | 677 | 191 | 8.72 | 1665 | 151.36 |
| Howard Jackson, UTEP | SR | 12 | 1187 | 268 | 9 | 328 | 283 | 6.33 | 1792 | 149.33 |
| Adrian Peterson, Oklahoma | FR | 13 | 1925 | 12 | 0 | 0 | 344 | 5.63 | 1937 | 149.00 |
| Dominique Dorsey, UNLV | SR | 11 | 1260 | 55 | 12 | 310 | 254 | 6.44 | 1637 | 148.82 |
| Maurice Drew, UCLA | SO | 11 | 1007 | 262 | 152 | 185 | 195 | 8.24 | 1606 | 146.00 |
| Domenic Hixon, Akron | JR | 11 | 0 | 882 | 275 | 449 | 100 | 16.06 | 1606 | 146.00 |
| Terrence Whitehead, Oregon | JR | 11 | 1144 | 405 | 53 | 0 | 252 | 6.36 | 1602 | 145.64 |
| Antonio Warren, Arkansas State | SR | 11 | 1036 | 72 | 0 | 481 | 230 | 6.91 | 1589 | 144.45 |
| Noah Herron, Northwestern | SR | 12 | 1381 | 351 | 0 | 0 | 310 | 5.59 | 1732 | 144.33 |
| Chad Owens, Hawaii | SR | 13 | 0 | 1290 | 531 | 45 | 141 | 13.23 | 1866 | 143.54 |
| Vernden Morency, Oklahoma St. | JR | 11 | 1474 | 101 | 0 | 0 | 263 | 5.99 | 1575 | 143.18 |
| Chris Johnson, East Carolina | FR | 11 | 561 | 236 | 0 | 765 | 203 | 7.69 | 1562 | 142.00 |
| Lance Moore, Toledo | SR | 13 | 19 | 1189 | 180 | 446 | 127 | 14.44 | 1834 | 141.08 |
| Michael Hart, Michigan | FR | 12 | 1455 | 237 | 0 | 0 | 308 | 5.49 | 1692 | 141.00 |

RECEPTIONS PER GAME

| | YEAR | G | REC | TD | REC |
|---------------------------------|------|----|-----|------|--------|
| Dante Ridgeway, Ball State | JR | 11 | 105 | 1399 | 8 9.5 |
| Braylon Edwards, Michigan | SR | 12 | 97 | 1330 | 15 8.0 |
| Bobby Bernal-Wood, Idaho | SR | 12 | 96 | 938 | 3 8.0 |
| Chad Owens, Hawaii | SR | 13 | 102 | 1290 | 17 7.8 |
| Eric Deslauriers, Eastern Mich. | JR | 11 | 84 | 1257 | 13 7.6 |
| Nichiren Flowers, Nevada | JR | 12 | 91 | 1126 | 6 7.5 |
| Taylor Stubblefield, Purdue | SR | 12 | 89 | 1095 | 10 6.9 |
| Tres Moses, Rutgers | JR | 11 | 81 | 1056 | 5 7.3 |
| Josh Davis, Marshall | SR | 12 | 86 | 914 | 7 7.1 |
| Mike Hass, Oregon State | JR | 12 | 86 | 1379 | 7 7.1 |
| Lance Moore, Toledo | SR | 13 | 90 | 1189 | 14 6.9 |
| Derek Hagan, Arizona State | JR | 12 | 83 | 1248 | 10 6.9 |
| Kerry Wright, Middle Tennessee | SR | 11 | 76 | 1048 | 11 6.9 |
| Nehemiah Glover, Texas Tech | SR | 9 | 62 | 660 | 1 6.8 |
| Darell Dowery, Kent State | SR | 10 | 68 | 712 | 4 6.8 |
| Greg Jennings, Western Mich. | SR | 11 | 74 | 1092 | 11 6.7 |
| Paris Warren, Utah | SR | 12 | 80 | 1076 | 12 6.6 |

INTERCEPTIONS PER GAME

| | YEAR | G | NO | YDS | TD | INT/G |
|-------------------------------|------|------|----|-----|----|-------|
| Chris Harris, La.-Monroe | SR | 11 | 7 | 11 | 0 | .64 |
| Charles Gordon, Kansas | SO | 11 | 7 | 52 | 0 | .64 |
| Ko Simpson, South Carolina | FR | 11 | 6 | 94 | 1 | .55 |
| Darrin Payne, New Mexico | SR | 12 | 6 | 69 | 0 | .50 |
| Morgan Scalley, Utah | SR | 12 | 6 | 79 | 0 | .50 |
| Kerry Rhodes, Louisville | SR | 12 | 6 | 56 | 1 | .50 |
| Ray Henderson, Boston College | SR | 12 | 6 | 107 | 2 | .50 |
| Keon Newsom, Bowling Green | SR | 12</ | | | | |

DIVISION I-A '04 NCAA STATISTICS

NCAA

INDIVIDUAL LEADERS

TEAM LEADERS

PUNT RETURNS

| | YEAR | NO | YDS | TD | Avg |
|----------------------------------|------|----|-----|----|-------|
| Ted Ginn Jr., Ohio State | FR | 15 | 384 | 4 | 25.60 |
| Kevin Robinson, Utah State | FR | 17 | 382 | 2 | 22.47 |
| Darrell Blackmon, N.C. State | FR | 12 | 214 | 1 | 17.83 |
| Travis Williams, East Carolina | FR | 20 | 354 | 1 | 17.70 |
| Domenik Hixon, Akron | JR | 16 | 275 | 1 | 17.19 |
| Devin Hester, Miami (Fla.) | SO | 19 | 326 | 3 | 17.16 |
| Dan Sheldon, Northern Illinois | SR | 24 | 394 | 1 | 16.42 |
| Roscoe Parrish, Miami (Fla.) | JR | 20 | 324 | 2 | 16.20 |
| Reggie Bush, Southern California | SO | 24 | 376 | 2 | 15.67 |
| Jahmal Fenner, UTEP | SR | 21 | 324 | 1 | 15.43 |
| Justin Phinisee, Oregon | JR | 17 | 261 | 1 | 15.35 |
| Thomas Flowers, Georgia | FR | 16 | 242 | 0 | 15.13 |
| Craig Bragg, UCLA | SR | 19 | 285 | 1 | 15.00 |
| Greg Jennings, Western Michigan | SR | 21 | 311 | 2 | 14.81 |
| Chad Owens, Hawaii | SR | 36 | 531 | 5 | 14.75 |
| Adam Jones, West Virginia | JR | 21 | 306 | 1 | 14.57 |
| Larry Taylor, Connecticut | FR | 23 | 333 | 1 | 14.48 |
| Ryne Robinson, Miami (Ohio) | SO | 39 | 547 | 2 | 14.03 |
| Willie Reid, Florida St. | JR | 38 | 522 | 0 | 13.74 |
| Hoost Marsh, Wyoming | FR | 25 | 337 | 0 | 13.48 |

PUNTING

| | YEAR | G | NO | YDS | Avg |
|---------------------------------|------|----|----|------|-------|
| Brandon Fields, Michigan State | JR | 12 | 50 | 2394 | 47.88 |
| John Torp, Colorado | JR | 13 | 72 | 3351 | 46.54 |
| Daniel Sepulveda, Baylor | SO | 11 | 62 | 2850 | 45.97 |
| Steve Weatherford, Illinois | JR | 11 | 57 | 2589 | 45.42 |
| Matt Payne, Brigham Young | SR | 11 | 62 | 2808 | 45.29 |
| Joel Stelly, La.-Monroe | JR | 11 | 62 | 2796 | 45.10 |
| Bryce Benekos, UTEP | SR | 12 | 62 | 2732 | 44.06 |
| Ryan Plackemeier, Wake Forest | JR | 11 | 64 | 2809 | 43.89 |
| Tom Malone, Southern California | JR | 13 | 49 | 2144 | 43.76 |
| Adam Podlesh, Maryland | SO | 11 | 63 | 2756 | 43.75 |
| Jared Cook, Mississippi State | SR | 9 | 49 | 2143 | 43.73 |
| Chris Kluwe, UCLA | SR | 12 | 61 | 2647 | 43.39 |
| Adam Gaessle, Pittsburgh | SO | 12 | 60 | 2600 | 43.33 |
| Jeff Babcock, Colorado St. | SR | 11 | 48 | 2078 | 43.29 |
| Chris MacDonald, Arizona State | FR | 12 | 64 | 2758 | 43.09 |
| Kyle Basler, Washington State | JR | 11 | 78 | 3361 | 43.09 |
| Thomas Olmsted, Troy | JR | 12 | 76 | 3272 | 43.05 |
| Adam Finley, Michigan | SR | 12 | 64 | 2751 | 42.98 |

FIELD GOALS

| | YEAR | G | FGA | FGM | PCT | FG/G |
|--------------------------------|------|----|-----|-----|------|------|
| Mike Nugent, Ohio State | SR | 12 | 27 | 24 | .889 | 2.00 |
| Tyler Jones, Boise State | SR | 12 | 27 | 24 | .889 | 2.00 |
| Andrew Wellock, Eastern Mich. | SO | 11 | 23 | 21 | .913 | 1.91 |
| David Rayner, Michigan State | SR | 12 | 31 | 22 | .710 | 1.83 |
| Jonathan Nichols, Mississippi | SR | 11 | 27 | 20 | .741 | 1.82 |
| Mason Crosby, Colorado | SO | 13 | 29 | 23 | .793 | 1.77 |
| Kyle Schlicher, Iowa | SO | 12 | 26 | 21 | .808 | 1.75 |
| Matt Nuzie, Connecticut | JR | 12 | 28 | 20 | .714 | 1.67 |
| Stephen Gostkowski, Memphis | JR | 12 | 24 | 20 | .833 | 1.67 |
| Brandon Pace, Virginia Tech | SO | 13 | 27 | 21 | .778 | 1.62 |
| Garrett Rivas, Michigan | SO | 12 | 24 | 19 | .792 | 1.58 |
| Alexis Serna, Oregon State | FR | 11 | 20 | 17 | .850 | 1.55 |
| Josh Cummings, Pittsburgh | JR | 12 | 27 | 18 | .667 | 1.50 |
| Deric Yaussi, Wyoming | JR | 12 | 25 | 18 | .720 | 1.50 |
| Jesse Ainsworth, Arizona State | SO | 12 | 28 | 18 | .643 | 1.50 |
| Nick Novak, Maryland | SR | 11 | 22 | 16 | .727 | 1.45 |
| Michael Srogi, Stanford | JR | 11 | 24 | 16 | .667 | 1.45 |
| Connor Hughes, Virginia | JR | 12 | 24 | 17 | .708 | 1.42 |

KICKOFF RETURNS (MINIMUM 1.2 RETURNS PER GAME)

| | YEAR | NO | YDS | TD | Avg |
|----------------------------------|------|----|------|----|-------|
| Justin Miller, Clemson | JR | 20 | 661 | 2 | 33.05 |
| Larry Taylor, Connecticut | FR | 12 | 376 | 1 | 31.33 |
| Ashlan Davis, Tulsa | JR | 37 | 1131 | 5 | 30.57 |
| Lance Bennett, Indiana | SO | 20 | 599 | 1 | 29.95 |
| John Eubanks, Southern Miss. | JR | 21 | 618 | 1 | 29.43 |
| T.J. Rushing, Stanford | JR | 23 | 653 | 1 | 28.39 |
| Asante White, Central Mich. | FR | 12 | 336 | 0 | 28.00 |
| Will Blackmon, Boston College | JR | 28 | 762 | 1 | 27.21 |
| Diamond Ferri, Syracuse | SR | 24 | 653 | 0 | 27.21 |
| Pierre Thomas, Illinois | SO | 25 | 677 | 1 | 27.08 |
| Tyron Prothro, Alabama | SO | 17 | 452 | 1 | 26.59 |
| Korey Kirkpatrick, Miami (Ohio) | SR | 18 | 468 | 0 | 26.00 |
| Devin Hester, Miami (Fla.) | SO | 15 | 389 | 1 | 25.93 |
| Chris Davis, Duke | FR | 20 | 516 | 1 | 25.80 |
| Maurice Hall, Ohio State | SR | 19 | 487 | 0 | 25.63 |
| Reggie Bush, Southern California | SO | 21 | 537 | 0 | 25.57 |
| Mark Onibokun, Boise State | SR | 15 | 382 | 0 | 25.47 |
| Reggie Lindsey, UAB | JR | 22 | 560 | 0 | 25.45 |

RUSHING OFFENSE

| | G | CAR | YDS | Avg | TD | YDS/G |
|-------------------|----|-----|------|------|----|--------|
| Rice | 11 | 688 | 3372 | 5.84 | 41 | 306.55 |
| Texas | 12 | 615 | 3590 | 5.84 | 41 | 299.17 |
| Navy | 12 | 689 | 3474 | 5.04 | 36 | 289.50 |
| Air Force | 11 | 648 | 3051 | 4.71 | 32 | 277.36 |
| Minnesota | 12 | 572 | 3082 | 5.39 | 29 | 256.83 |
| California | 12 | 509 | 3081 | 6.05 | 30 | 256.75 |
| West Virginia | 12 | 590 | 3034 | 5.14 | 23 | 252.83 |
| Louisville | 12 | 534 | 3005 | 5.63 | 47 | 250.42 |
| Virginia | 12 | 550 | 2914 | 5.30 | 34 | 242.83 |
| Michigan State | 12 | 500 | 2862 | 5.72 | 22 | 238.50 |
| Northern Illinois | 12 | 550 | 2858 | 5.20 | 28 | 238.17 |
| Oklahoma State | 12 | 594 | 2844 | 4.79 | 32 | 237.00 |
| Utah | 12 | 525 | 2833 | 5.40 | 36 | 236.08 |
| Boise State | 12 | 596 | 2758 | 4.63 | 49 | 229.83 |
| Fresno State | 12 | 506 | 2730 | 5.40 | 36 | 227.50 |
| Oklahoma | 13 | 565 | 2709 | 4.79 | 22 | 208.38 |
| Wake Forest | 11 | 527 | 2267 | 4.30 | 18 | 206.09 |
| Memphis | 12 | 482 | 2438 | 5.06 | 26 | 203.17 |
| Louisiana Tech | 12 | 490 | 2403 | 4.90 | 25 | 200.25 |
| LSU | 12 | 506 | 2326 | 4.60 | 20 | 193.83 |

TURNOVER MARGIN

| | FUM | INT | GAINED | FUM | INT | LOST | MARGIN/G |
|---------------------|-----|-----|--------|-----|-----|------|----------|
| Southern California | 16 | 22 | 38 | 12 | 7 | 19 | 1.46 |
| Oklahoma State | 15 | 11 | 26 | 4 | 5 | 9 | 1.42 |
| Bowling Green | 11 | 14 | 25 | 6 | 4 | 10 | 1.25 |
| Utah | 13 | 16 | 29 | 9 | 5 | 14 | 1.25 |
| Miami (Fla.) | 14 | 13 | 27 | 7 | 6 | 13 | 1.17 |
| Iowa | 15 | 17 | 32 | 5 | 14 | 19 | 1.08 |
| Pittsburgh | 9 | 17 | 26 | 6 | 7 | 13 | 1.08 |
| North Texas | 12 | 14 | 26 | 9 | 4 | 13 | 1.08 |
| Virginia Tech | 13 | 19 | 32 | 10 | 9 | 19 | 1.00 |
| Louisville | 10 | 17 | 27 | 11 | 5 | 21 | 0.92 |
| Troy | 7 | 25 | 32 | 10 | 11 | 21 | 0.92 |
| Iowa State | 8 | 17 | 25 | 7 | 8 | 15 | 0.83 |
| Boise State | 8 | 23 | 31 | 9 | 13 | 22 | 0.75 |
| New Mexico | 15 | 13 | 28 | 7 | 12 | 19 | 0.75 |
| Texas A&M | 9 | 13 | 22 | 9 | 4 | 13 | 0.75 |
| Stanford | 11 | 16 | 27 | 5 | 14 | 19 | 0.73 |
| Northern Illinois | 7 | 13 | 20 | 1 | 11 | 12 | 0.67 |
| Wake Forest | 9 | 11 | 20 | 6 | 7 | 13 | 0.64 |
| Fresno State | 13 | 16 | 29 | 7 | 15 | 22 | 0.58 |
| Florida State | 13 | 16 | 29 | 7 | 15 | 22 | 0.58 |

RUSHING DEFENSE

| | G | CAR | YDS | Avg | TD | YDS/G |
|---------------------|----|-----|------|------|----|--------|
| Southern California | 13 | 394 | 1032 | 2.62 | 5 | 79.4 |
| California | 12 | 368 | 990 | 2.69 | 7 | 82.5 |
| Florida State | 12 | 418 | 997 | 2.39 | 5 | 83.1 |
| Notre Dame | 12 | 399 | 1058 | 2.65 | 6 | 88.2 |
| Iowa | 12 | 392 | 1110 | 2.83 | 8 | 92.5 |
| Oklahoma | 13 | 402 | 1230 | 2.36 | 10 | 94.6 |
| LSU | 12 | 410 | 1197 | 2.92 | 7 | 99.8 |
| N.C. State | 12 | 429 | 1126 | 2.62 | 6 | 102.4 |
| Boise State | 12 | 373 | 1247 | 3.34 | 17 | 103.9 |
| Nebraska | 11 | 390 | 1144 | 2.93 | 14 | 104.0 |
| Auburn | 12 | 408 | 1599 | 6.90 | 59 | 149.75 |
| Texas Tech | 12 | 944 | 5900 | 6.25 | 59 | 491.67 |
| Texas | 12 | 890 | 5573 | 6.26 | 55 | 464.42 |
| Oklahoma | 13 | 971 | 6007 | 6.19 | 61 | 462.08 |
| Memphis | 12 | 903 | 5524 | 6.12 | 53 | 460.33 |
| Michigan State | 12 | 899 | 5520 | 6.14 | 41 | 460.00 |
| Toledo | 13 | 976 | 5970 | 6.12 | 58 | 459.23 |
| Southern California | 13 | 923 | 5838 | 6.33 | 64 | 449.08 |
| Purdue | 12 | 910 | 5358 | 5.89 | 50 | 446.50 |
| Northern Illinois | 12 | 855 | 5265 | 6.16 | 53 | 438.75 |
| Minnesota | 12 | 841 | 5260 | 6.25 | 47 | 438.33 |
| Arizona State | 12 | 937 | 5225 | 5.58 | 43 | 435.42 |
| Hawaii | 13 | 900 | 5649 | 6.28 | 63 | 434.54 |
| TCU | 11 | 841 | 4738 | 5.63 | 48 | 430.73 |
| Connecticut | 12 | 885 | 5157 | 5.83 | 44 | 429.75 |
| Texas A&M | 12 | 812 | 5141 | 6.33 | 44 | 428.42 |

TOTAL OFFENSE

| | G | PLAYS | YDS | Avg | TD | YDS/G |
|---------------------|----|-------|------|------|----|--------|
| N.C. State | 11 | 701 | 2435 | 3.47 | 23 | 221.36 |
| Alabama | 12 | 726 | 2946 | 4.06 | 23 | 245.50 |
| LSU | 12 | 743 | 3083 | 4.15 | 25 | 256.92 |
| Virginia Tech | 13 | 794 | 3484 | 4.39 | 18 | 268.00 |
| Auburn | 13 | 780 | 3609 | 4.63 | 19 | 277.62 |
| Southern California | 13 | 851 | 3631 | 4.27 | 20 | 279.31 |
| Florida State | 12 | 798 | 3406 | 4.27 | 18 | 283.83 |
| Georgia | 12 | 747 | 3467 | 4.64 | 23 | 288.92 |
| Wisconsin | 12 | 756 | 3495 | 4.62 | 28 | 291.25 |
| Penn State | 11 | 753 | 3207 | 4.26 | 18 | 291.55 |
| Iowa | 12 | 816 | 3526 | 4.32 | 25 | 293.83 |
| Georgia Tech | 12 | 799 | 3575 | 4. | | |

DIVISION I-AA '04 NCAA STATISTICS

INDIVIDUAL LEADERS

PASSING EFFICIENCY (MINIMUM OF 15 ATTEMPTS PER GAME)

| YEAR | G | ATT | CMP | PCT | INT | INT% | YDS | YDS/ATT | TD | PCT | RATING | |
|-----------------------------------|----|-----|-----|-----|-------|------|------|---------|------|-----|--------|-------|
| Erik Meyer, Eastern Wash. | JR | 13 | 382 | 259 | 67.80 | 9 | 2.36 | 3707 | 9.70 | 31 | 8.12 | 171.4 |
| Joel Sambursky, Southern Ill. | JR | 12 | 234 | 142 | 60.68 | 5 | 2.14 | 2224 | 9.50 | 19 | 8.12 | 163.0 |
| Eric Sanders, Northern Iowa | FR | 9 | 150 | 95 | 63.33 | 5 | 3.33 | 1307 | 8.71 | 15 | 10.00 | 162.9 |
| Craig Ochs, Montana | SR | 15 | 450 | 309 | 68.67 | 8 | 1.78 | 3807 | 8.46 | 33 | 7.33 | 160.4 |
| Lang Campbell, William & Mary | SR | 14 | 455 | 298 | 65.49 | 5 | 1.10 | 3988 | 8.76 | 30 | 6.59 | 158.7 |
| Ricchie Williams, Appalachian St. | JR | 10 | 350 | 234 | 66.86 | 10 | 2.86 | 3109 | 8.88 | 24 | 6.86 | 158.4 |
| Princeton Shepherd, Hampton | JR | 12 | 200 | 108 | 54.00 | 7 | 3.50 | 1890 | 9.45 | 18 | 9.00 | 156.1 |
| Dustin Long, Sam Houston St. | SR | 14 | 531 | 333 | 62.71 | 18 | 3.39 | 4588 | 8.64 | 39 | 7.34 | 152.7 |
| Ingle Martin, Furman | JR | 13 | 320 | 198 | 61.88 | 9 | 2.81 | 2792 | 8.73 | 22 | 6.88 | 152.2 |
| Mark Borda, Lehigh | JR | 12 | 330 | 205 | 62.12 | 6 | 1.82 | 2682 | 8.13 | 24 | 7.27 | 150.8 |
| Martin Hankins, Southeastern La. | SO | 11 | 540 | 357 | 66.11 | 12 | 2.22 | 4240 | 7.85 | 35 | 6.48 | 149.0 |
| Ricky Santos, New Hampshire | FR | 13 | 425 | 272 | 64.00 | 10 | 2.35 | 3318 | 7.81 | 31 | 7.29 | 148.9 |
| Shawn Brady, Northeastern | SR | 11 | 287 | 175 | 60.98 | 11 | 3.83 | 2486 | 8.66 | 17 | 5.92 | 145.6 |
| Barrick Nealy, Texas St. | JR | 9 | 143 | 84 | 58.74 | 6 | 4.20 | 1202 | 8.41 | 10 | 6.99 | 144.0 |
| Cedric Stevens, Chattanooga | SR | 11 | 354 | 232 | 65.54 | 10 | 2.82 | 2708 | 7.65 | 20 | 5.65 | 142.8 |
| Scott Dolch, Central Conn. St. | SR | 10 | 211 | 122 | 57.82 | 7 | 3.32 | 1591 | 7.54 | 17 | 8.06 | 141.1 |
| Collin Drafts, Charleston So. | SO | 10 | 340 | 212 | 62.35 | 8 | 2.35 | 2532 | 7.45 | 21 | 6.18 | 140.6 |
| Todd Mortensen, San Diego | SR | 11 | 389 | 234 | 60.15 | 6 | 1.54 | 2874 | 7.39 | 25 | 6.43 | 140.3 |
| Casey Rehrer, Southern Utah | SR | 11 | 376 | 247 | 65.69 | 14 | 3.72 | 2846 | 7.57 | 21 | 5.59 | 140.3 |
| Justin Rascati, James Madison | SO | 15 | 283 | 185 | 65.37 | 5 | 1.77 | 2045 | 7.23 | 14 | 4.95 | 138.9 |
| Justin Haddix, Western Ky. | SO | 12 | 215 | 126 | 58.60 | 10 | 4.65 | 1976 | 9.19 | 8 | 3.72 | 138.8 |
| Marvin Burroughs, Villanova | SO | 11 | 334 | 209 | 62.57 | 12 | 3.59 | 2486 | 7.44 | 20 | 5.99 | 137.7 |
| Brian Boland, Monmouth | SO | 11 | 206 | 116 | 56.31 | 6 | 2.91 | 1643 | 7.98 | 12 | 5.83 | 136.7 |
| Tom Zets, Youngstown St. | SO | 11 | 255 | 154 | 60.39 | 7 | 2.75 | 1822 | 7.15 | 16 | 6.27 | 135.6 |
| Bret Young, South Carolina St. | SR | 10 | 230 | 125 | 54.35 | 8 | 3.48 | 1851 | 8.05 | 14 | 6.09 | 135.1 |

TOTAL OFFENSE

| YEAR | G | RUSHING | | | PASSING | | | TOTAL OFFENSE | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|----|---------|------|------|---------|------|-----|---------------|-----|--------|-------|-------|
| | | CAR | GAIN | LOSS | NET | ATT | YDS | PLAYS | YDS | YDS/PL | YDS/G | |
| Martin Hankins, Southeastern La. | SO | 11 | 56 | 163 | 182 | -19 | 540 | 4240 | 596 | 4221 | 7.08 | 383.7 |
| Travis Lulay, Montana St. | JR | 11 | 112 | 504 | 333 | 371 | 490 | 3485 | 602 | 3856 | 6.41 | 350.5 |
| Ricchie Williams, Appalachian St. | JR | 10 | 137 | 583 | 299 | 284 | 350 | 3109 | 487 | 3393 | 6.97 | 339.3 |
| Ramon Nelson, Samford | SR | 11 | 167 | 967 | 168 | 799 | 461 | 2807 | 628 | 3606 | 5.74 | 327.8 |
| Dustin Long, Sam Houston St. | SR | 14 | 45 | 112 | 124 | -12 | 531 | 4588 | 576 | 4576 | 7.94 | 326.9 |
| Casey Rehrer, Southern Utah | SR | 11 | 167 | 814 | 221 | 593 | 376 | 2846 | 543 | 3439 | 6.33 | 312.6 |
| Bradshaw Littlejohn, Morgan St. | SR | 11 | 138 | 970 | 195 | 775 | 359 | 2643 | 497 | 3418 | 6.88 | 310.7 |
| Lang Campbell, William & Mary | SR | 14 | 101 | 434 | 117 | 317 | 455 | 3988 | 556 | 4305 | 7.74 | 307.5 |
| Erik Meyer, Eastern Wash. | JR | 13 | 96 | 461 | 234 | 227 | 382 | 3707 | 478 | 3934 | 8.23 | 302.6 |
| Thomas Ricks, Southern U. | SR | 12 | 143 | 844 | 119 | 725 | 434 | 2798 | 577 | 3523 | 6.11 | 293.6 |
| Ricky Santos, New Hampshire | FR | 13 | 125 | 499 | 216 | 283 | 425 | 3318 | 550 | 3601 | 6.55 | 277.0 |
| Ben Dougherty, Florida A&M | SR | 11 | 128 | 587 | 247 | 340 | 393 | 2696 | 521 | 3036 | 5.83 | 276.0 |
| Mark Hetherington, Idaho St. | SR | 11 | 47 | 46 | 271 | -225 | 504 | 3192 | 551 | 2967 | 5.38 | 269.7 |
| Craig Ochs, Montana | SR | 15 | 95 | 377 | 192 | 185 | 450 | 3807 | 545 | 3992 | 7.32 | 266.1 |
| Collin Drafts, Charleston So. | SO | 10 | 89 | 295 | 175 | 120 | 340 | 2532 | 429 | 2652 | 6.18 | 265.2 |
| T.J. Moriarty, Stony Brook | SR | 10 | 116 | 389 | 250 | 139 | 340 | 2495 | 456 | 2634 | 5.78 | 263.4 |
| Todd Mortensen, San Diego | SR | 11 | 29 | 37 | 62 | -25 | 389 | 2874 | 418 | 2849 | 6.82 | 259.0 |
| Cedric Stevens, Chattanooga | SR | 11 | 90 | 300 | 171 | 129 | 354 | 2708 | 444 | 2837 | 6.39 | 257.9 |
| Nick Roberts, Gardner-Webb | JR | 11 | 109 | 505 | 142 | 363 | 360 | 2410 | 469 | 2773 | 5.91 | 252.1 |
| Andrew Goodenough, Southeast Mo. | SR | 11 | 30 | 46 | 140 | -94 | 466 | 2820 | 496 | 2726 | 5.50 | 247.8 |
| Ryan Fitzpatrick, Harvard | SR | 10 | 118 | 540 | 92 | 448 | 276 | 1986 | 394 | 2434 | 6.18 | 243.4 |
| Niel Loebig, Duquesne | SR | 10 | 48 | 176 | 131 | 45 | 359 | 2371 | 407 | 2416 | 5.94 | 241.6 |
| Ingle Martin, Furman | JR | 13 | 62 | 409 | 117 | 292 | 320 | 2792 | 382 | 3084 | 8.07 | 237.2 |
| Marvin Burroughs, Villanova | SO | 11 | 109 | 420 | 305 | 115 | 334 | 2486 | 443 | 2601 | 5.87 | 236.5 |
| Mark Borda, Lehigh | JR | 12 | 116 | 379 | 265 | 114 | 330 | 2682 | 446 | 2796 | 6.27 | 233.0 |

ALL-PURPOSE RUNNING

| YEAR | G | RUSH | REC | PR | KOR | PLAYS | YDS/PL | YDS | YDS/G | |
|--------------------------------|----|------|------|------|-----|-------|--------|-------|-------|--------|
| DaVon Fowlkes, Appalachian St. | SR | 11 | 82 | 1618 | 194 | 419 | 152 | 15.22 | 2313 | 210.27 |
| John Leverett, Davidson | SR | 9 | 1084 | 144 | 0 | 534 | 247 | 7.13 | 1762 | 195.78 |
| Charles Anthony, Tennessee St. | SR | 11 | 1739 | 318 | 0 | 0 | 345 | 5.96 | 2057 | 187.00 |
| Darrell Jones, Cal Poly | SR | 11 | 53 | 1118 | 403 | 285 | 114 | 16.31 | 1859 | 169.00 |
| Robert Carr, Yale | SR | 10 | 1185 | 15 | 0 | 489 | 276 | 6.12 | 1689 | 168.90 |
| Jerome Mathis, Hampton | SR | 12 | 173 | 884 | 5 | 888 | 70 | 27.86 | 1950 | 162.50 |
| Greg Fields, Princeton | JR | 10 | 169 | 511 | 371 | 521 | 130 | 12.09 | 1572 | 157.20 |
| Sean Mayers, St. Peter's | JR | 10 | 1546 | 19 | 0 | 0 | 277 | 5.65 | 1565 | 156.50 |
| Roger Robinson, Northern Ariz. | SR | 11 | 907 | 356 | 67 | 381 | 262 | 6.53 | 1711 | 155.55 |
| Dominique Thompson, Wm. & Mary | SR | 14 | 56 | 1585 | 0 | 533 | 110 | 19.76 | 2174 | 155.29 |
| Ed Picolo, Sacred Heart | JR | 9 | 1339 | 57 | 0 | 0 | 216 | 6.46 | 1396 | 155.11 |
| Jason Jackson, Morgan St. | JR | 9 | 1191 | 199 | 0 | 0 | 213 | 6.53 | 1390 | 154.44 |
| Travis Glasford, Western Ill. | JR | 10 | 1080 | 464 | 0 | 0 | 270 | 5.72 | 1544 | 154.40 |
| James Norris, Western Ill. | SR | 11 | -3 | 729 | 180 | 789 | 91 | 18.63 | 1695 | 154.09 |
| Steven Silva, Holy Cross | SR | 11 | 708 | 507 | 85 | 363 | 241 | 6.90 | 1663 | 151.18 |
| Ronald Colbert, Howard | SR | 11 | 1018 | 44 | 200 | 387 | 243 | 6.79 | 1649 | 149.91 |
| Eric Kimble, Eastern Wash. | JR | 13 | 19 | 1453 | 460 | 0 | 110 | 17.56 | 1932 | 148.62 |
| Ray Perkins, Southeastern La. | SR | 11 | 1148 | 360 | 0 | 114 | 221 | 7.34 | 1622 | 147.45 |
| Ken Triboletti, La Salle | SR | 10 | 764 | 531 | 16 | 162 | 195 | 7.55 | 1473 | 147.30 |
| Clifton Dawson, Harvard | SO | 10 | 1302 | 129 | 0 | 0 | 263 | 5.44 | 1431 | 143.10 |
| Evan Harney, San Diego | JR | 11 | 1334 | 233 | 0 | 0 | 332 | 4.72 | 1567 | 142.45 |
| Brian Edwards, Harvard | SR | 10 | 109 | 646 | 348 | 321 | 103 | 13.83 | 1424 | 142.40 |
| Scott Phaydavong, Drake | FR | 12 | 1539 | 121 | 0 | 45 | 251 | 6.79 | 1705 | 142.08 |
| Sam Gado, Liberty | SR | 9 | 901 | 95 | 0 | 269 | 160 | 7.91 | 1265 | 140.56 |
| Steven Rush, Southwest Mo. St. | SR | 10 | 7 | 741 | 153 | 502 | 87 | 16.13 | 1403 | 140.30 |

RECEPTIONS PER GAME

| YEAR | G | REC | YDS | TD | REC/G | |
|----------------------------------|----|-----|-----|------|-------|------|
| DaVon Fowlkes, Appalachian St. | SR | 11 | 103 | 1618 | 14 | 9.36 |
| Ralph Plumb, Yale | SR | 10 | 79 | 939 | 5 | 7.90 |
| Felton Huggins, Southeastern La. | JR | 11 | 84 | 1313 | 13 | 7.64 |
| Luke Palko, St. Francis (Pa.) | SO | 11 | 82 | 679 | 2 | 7.45 |
| A.J. Smith, Southern Utah | SR | 11 | 79 | 730 | 4 | 7.18 |
| Jarrod Fuller, Sam Houston St. | SR | 14 | 99 | 1383 | 8 | 7.07 |
| Dan Castles, Pennsylvania | SR | 10 | 70 | 966 | 8 | 7.00 |
| Fred Amey, Sacramento St. | SR | 11 | 76 | 1186 | 6 | 6.91 |
| Edward Gadson, Charleston St. | FR | 10 | 69 | 792 | 9 | 6.90 |
| Devalle Ellis, Hofstra | JR | 11 | 72 | 1037 | 12 | 6.55 |
| Wade Fletcher, Columbia | SR | 8 | 52 | 575 | 2 | 6.50 |
| Efrem Hill, Samford | SR | 11 | 71 | 984 | 10 | 6.45 |
| Eric Kimble, Eastern Wash. | JR | 13 | 83 | 1453 | 9 | 6.38 |
| Luke Graham, Colgate | SR | 11 | 70 | 933 | 6 | 6.36 |
| Jarrett Schreck, Brown | JR | 10 | 62 | 1035 | 3 | 6.20 |
| Charles Sullivan, Hofstra | FR | 11 | 68 | 938 | 7 | 6.18 |
| Sale' Key, Idaho St. | SR | 11 | 67 | 943 | 9 | 6.09 |
| Taurean Stephens, Tenn.-Martin | SO | 11 | 67 | 732 | 6 | 6.09 |
| Isaac Irby, Hofstra | SR | 11 | 66 | 857 | 9 | 6.00 |

INTERCEPTIONS PER GAME

| YEAR | G | NO | YDS | TD | INT/G | |
|------------------------------|----|----|-----|-----|-------|-----|
| Ahmad Treudo, Southern U. | SR | 11 | 9 | 166 | 1 | .82 |
| Shannon James, Massachusetts | JR | 11 | 8 | 110 | 0 | .73 |
| Thaddeus Kornegay, Fordham | SR | 11 | 8 | 103 | 0 | .73 |
| Onsha Whitaker, Murray St. | SR | 10 | 7 | -1 | 0 | .70 |
| Allante Harrison, Towson | JR | 11 | 7 | 128 | 2 | .64 |
| D | | | | | | |

DIVISION I-AA '04 NCAA STATISTICS



INDIVIDUAL LEADERS

TEAM LEADERS

PUNT RETURNS

| | YEAR | NO | YDS | TD | Avg |
|-----------------------------------|------|----|-----|----|-------|
| Craig Agee, Jacksonville St. | SO | 18 | 369 | 2 | 20.50 |
| Eric Kimble, Eastern Wash. | JR | 26 | 460 | 2 | 17.69 |
| Marquay McDaniel, Hampton | JR | 26 | 440 | 2 | 16.92 |
| Myron Jefferson, Ark.-Pine Bluff | JR | 19 | 312 | 1 | 16.42 |
| Toby Zeigler, Northwestern St. | JR | 24 | 376 | 1 | 15.67 |
| Dante Settles, Robert Morris | SR | 17 | 256 | 1 | 15.06 |
| Cletis Gordon, Jackson St. | JR | 24 | 354 | 2 | 14.75 |
| Deon Rheubottom, Delaware St. | JR | 18 | 262 | 2 | 14.56 |
| Darrell Jones, Cal Poly | SR | 30 | 403 | 1 | 13.43 |
| Chris Peters, Prairie View | JR | 11 | 147 | 0 | 13.36 |
| Tony Tompkins, Stephen F. Austin | JR | 20 | 254 | 0 | 12.70 |
| Brendan Ferrigno, Portland St. | SO | 25 | 311 | 0 | 12.44 |
| Lonnie Teagle, Alcorn St. | SR | 28 | 342 | 0 | 12.21 |
| Brian Edwards, Harvard | SR | 29 | 348 | 3 | 12.00 |
| Greg Fields, Princeton | JR | 31 | 371 | 0 | 11.97 |
| Quintin Mitchell, Northeastern | SR | 18 | 209 | 0 | 11.61 |
| Bernard Campbell, Sam Houston St. | SR | 19 | 218 | 1 | 11.47 |
| Sidney Haugabrook, Delaware | SR | 27 | 308 | 2 | 11.41 |
| Dennis Mitchell, Western Ky. | JR | 24 | 273 | 1 | 11.38 |
| Teddy Craft, Ga. Southern | SO | 17 | 193 | 1 | 11.35 |

PUNTING

| | YEAR | G | NO | YDS | Avg |
|------------------------------------|------|----|----|------|-------|
| Paul Ernster, Northern Ariz. | SR | 11 | 55 | 2631 | 47.84 |
| David Simonhoff, Southeast Mo. St. | SO | 11 | 69 | 3174 | 46.00 |
| Ryan Hoffman, Illinois St. | JR | 11 | 55 | 2413 | 43.87 |
| Brian Claybourn, Western Ky. | SR | 12 | 46 | 1996 | 43.39 |
| Mike Mellow, Maine | SR | 11 | 64 | 2758 | 43.09 |
| Kyle McQuown, Idaho St. | SO | 11 | 61 | 2627 | 43.07 |
| Eric Hernandez, Prairie View | SO | 11 | 62 | 2663 | 42.95 |
| Damon Miller, Florida A&M | SR | 11 | 51 | 2154 | 42.24 |
| Travis Lulay, Montana St. | JR | 11 | 50 | 2108 | 42.16 |
| Chris Hicks, Samford | SO | 11 | 63 | 2648 | 42.03 |
| Cory Eloff, Texas St. | JR | 11 | 54 | 2261 | 41.87 |
| Cameron Muro, Hampton | JR | 12 | 47 | 1967 | 41.85 |
| Wyatt Kennah, Weber St. | JR | 11 | 59 | 2464 | 41.76 |
| Graham Whitlock, Gardner-Webb | SR | 11 | 60 | 2503 | 41.72 |
| Tyson Johnson, Montana | SO | 15 | 56 | 2318 | 41.39 |
| Trevor Ward, Southern Utah | FR | 11 | 44 | 1819 | 41.34 |
| Christian Koegel, Massachusetts | SO | 11 | 59 | 2436 | 41.29 |
| Ryan Feely, Jacksonville | JR | 10 | 62 | 2535 | 40.89 |

FIELD GOALS

| | YEAR | G | FGA | FGM | PCT | FG/G |
|---------------------------------|------|----|-----|-----|-------|------|
| Joe Johnson, Weber St. | JR | 11 | 22 | 17 | .773 | 1.55 |
| Kyle Hooper, Indiana St. | SO | 11 | 20 | 16 | .800 | 1.45 |
| Brian Wingert, Northern Iowa | SO | 10 | 18 | 14 | .778 | 1.40 |
| Jon Scifres, Southwest Mo. St. | JR | 11 | 15 | 15 | 1.000 | 1.36 |
| Chris Onorato, Hofstra | SR | 11 | 20 | 15 | .750 | 1.36 |
| Greg Kuehn, William & Mary | JR | 14 | 28 | 19 | .679 | 1.36 |
| E.J. Cochrane, Montana St. | SR | 9 | 22 | 12 | .545 | 1.33 |
| Andrew Paterini, Hampton | SO | 12 | 22 | 16 | .727 | 1.33 |
| Derek Javarone, Princeton | JR | 10 | 18 | 13 | .722 | 1.30 |
| Matt Schindel, Harvard | FR | 10 | 17 | 13 | .765 | 1.30 |
| Adam Moss, Florida Int'l | JR | 10 | 19 | 13 | .684 | 1.30 |
| Jason Resch, Dayton | SR | 10 | 19 | 13 | .684 | 1.30 |
| Steve Morgan, Brown | FR | 10 | 19 | 13 | .684 | 1.30 |
| Josh Foster, Tennessee Tech | JR | 11 | 19 | 14 | .737 | 1.27 |
| Lance Garner, Sam Houston St. | JR | 13 | 21 | 16 | .762 | 1.23 |
| Dan Carpenter, Montana | K | 15 | 29 | 18 | .621 | 1.20 |
| Jim Hall, Southeastern La. | JR | 11 | 18 | 13 | .722 | 1.18 |
| Nathan DiLorenzo, Robert Morris | SO | 11 | 16 | 13 | .813 | 1.18 |

KICKOFF RETURNS (MINIMUM 1.2 RETURNS PER GAME)

| | YEAR | NO | YDS | TD | Avg |
|-------------------------------------|------|----|-----|----|-------|
| Jerome Mathis, Hampton | SR | 25 | 888 | 5 | 35.52 |
| James Wright, Sacred Heart | SO | 13 | 406 | 1 | 31.23 |
| Cedric Bowen, Ark.-Pine Bluff | SR | 13 | 385 | 2 | 29.62 |
| Dante Ross, Bucknell | JR | 16 | 465 | 2 | 29.06 |
| Casey Gough, Holy Cross | SO | 15 | 433 | 0 | 28.87 |
| Corey Graham, New Hampshire | SO | 24 | 686 | 0 | 28.58 |
| Clay Green, Jacksonville St. | SO | 13 | 364 | 0 | 28.00 |
| Kyle Barber, Eastern Ky. | FR | 16 | 441 | 1 | 27.56 |
| Arel Gordon, Maine | SO | 27 | 729 | 2 | 27.00 |
| Sidney Haugabrook, Delaware | SR | 27 | 728 | 1 | 26.96 |
| Brian Edwards, Harvard | SR | 12 | 321 | 1 | 26.75 |
| Landry Carter, Grambling | FR | 20 | 533 | 1 | 26.65 |
| Wiley King, Weber St. | JR | 29 | 767 | 0 | 26.45 |
| Rondiekas Darby, South Carolina St. | SO | 18 | 471 | 0 | 26.17 |
| Nick Garton, San Diego | JR | 19 | 496 | 0 | 26.11 |
| Cletis Gordon, Jackson St. | JR | 16 | 416 | 1 | 26.00 |
| Steven Silva, Holy Cross | SR | 14 | 363 | 0 | 25.93 |
| Dante Settles, Robert Morris | SR | 18 | 464 | 0 | 25.78 |

RUSHING OFFENSE

| | G | CAR | YDS | Avg | TD | YDS/G |
|--------------------|----|-----|------|------|----|--------|
| Ga. Southern | 12 | 761 | 4439 | 5.83 | 56 | 369.92 |
| Wofford | 11 | 637 | 3356 | 5.27 | 35 | 305.09 |
| Southern Ill. | 12 | 557 | 3404 | 6.11 | 42 | 283.67 |
| Rhode Island | 11 | 692 | 3074 | 4.44 | 29 | 279.45 |
| Coastal Caro. | 11 | 522 | 3058 | 5.86 | 40 | 278.00 |
| Jacksonville St. | 11 | 550 | 2863 | 5.21 | 41 | 260.27 |
| Albany (N.Y.) | 11 | 562 | 2802 | 4.99 | 24 | 254.73 |
| Bucknell | 11 | 578 | 2770 | 4.79 | 27 | 251.82 |
| Northwestern St. | 12 | 549 | 2981 | 5.43 | 34 | 248.42 |
| Nicholls St. | 10 | 558 | 2454 | 4.40 | 24 | 245.40 |
| Dayton | 10 | 538 | 2407 | 4.47 | 28 | 240.70 |
| South Carolina St. | 11 | 561 | 2502 | 4.46 | 36 | 227.45 |
| Hampton | 12 | 588 | 2717 | 4.62 | 34 | 226.42 |
| Western Ky. | 12 | 543 | 2714 | 5.00 | 35 | 226.17 |
| Furman | 13 | 587 | 2940 | 5.01 | 33 | 226.15 |
| Bethune-Cookman | 10 | 477 | 2220 | 4.65 | 29 | 222.00 |
| Murray St. | 12 | 530 | 2642 | 4.98 | 26 | 220.17 |
| | 11 | 534 | 2413 | 4.52 | 29 | 219.36 |

TURNOVER MARGIN

| | FUM | INT | GAINED | FUM | INT | LOST | MARGIN/G |
|-------------------|-----|-----|--------|-----|-----|------|----------|
| Coastal Carolina | 11 | 27 | 38 | 10 | 6 | 16 | 2.00 |
| Hampton | 20 | 23 | 43 | 13 | 8 | 21 | 1.83 |
| Montana | 15 | 23 | 38 | 6 | 10 | 16 | 1.47 |
| Wagner | 14 | 19 | 33 | 8 | 11 | 19 | 1.27 |
| Southern Ill. | 10 | 17 | 27 | 5 | 7 | 12 | 1.25 |
| Alabama St. | 17 | 17 | 34 | 8 | 12 | 20 | 1.17 |
| Bethune-Cookman | 15 | 20 | 35 | 18 | 6 | 24 | 1.10 |
| Northern Iowa | 12 | 11 | 23 | 4 | 8 | 12 | 1.00 |
| Jacksonville St. | 11 | 16 | 27 | 11 | 5 | 16 | 1.00 |
| Wofford | 12 | 15 | 27 | 11 | 5 | 16 | 1.00 |
| Lehigh | 8 | 20 | 28 | 8 | 8 | 16 | 1.00 |
| Southwest Mo. St. | 9 | 18 | 27 | 8 | 9 | 17 | 0.91 |
| Maine | 12 | 16 | 28 | 5 | 13 | 18 | 0.91 |
| Nicholls St. | 12 | 15 | 27 | 13 | 5 | 18 | 0.90 |
| Harvard | 9 | 13 | 22 | 7 | 6 | 13 | 0.90 |
| Cal Poly | 12 | 25 | 37 | 15 | 14 | 29 | 0.73 |
| Western Ky. | 7 | 23 | 30 | 12 | 10 | 22 | 0.67 |
| Ga. Southern | 7 | 15 | 22 | 10 | 4 | 14 | 0.67 |

RUSHING DEFENSE

| | G | CAR | YDS | Avg | TD | YDS/G |
|------------------|----|-----|------|------|----|-------|
| Cal Poly | 11 | 385 | 927 | 2.41 | 10 | 84.3 |
| James Madison | 15 | 494 | 1310 | 2.65 | 9 | 87.3 |
| Northwestern St. | 12 | 415 | 1128 | 2.72 | 15 | 94.0 |
| Alabama A&M | 11 | 403 | 1041 | 2.58 | 9 | 94.6 |
| Dayton | 10 | 345 | 975 | 2.83 | 8 | 97.5 |
| Cornell | 10 | 351 | 1011 | 2.88 | 9 | 101.1 |
| Southern Utah | 11 | 408 | 1116 | 2.74 | 12 | 101.5 |
| Southern Ill. | 12 | 401 | 1220 | 3.04 | 6 | 101.9 |
| Alabama St. | 11 | 380 | 1236 | 3.25 | 9 | 103.0 |
| Jacksonville St. | 11 | 366 | 1143 | 3.12 | 10 | 103.9 |
| Tennessee Tech | 11 | 376 | 1164 | 3.10 | 11 | 105.8 |
| Drake | 12 | 430 | 1278 | 2.97 | 11 | 106.5 |
| Villanova | 11 | 462 | 1173 | 2.54 | 16 | 106.6 |
| Dartmouth | 10 | 371 | 1077 | 2.90 | 6 | 107.7 |
| Northern Iowa | 11 | 368 | 1202 | 3.27 | 9 | 109.3 |
| Portland St. | 11 | 385 | 1228 | 3.19 | 14 | 111.6 |
| Murray St. | 11 | 403 | 1249 | 3.10 | 14 | 113.5 |
| Eastern Ill. | 11 | 407 | 1257 | 3.09 | 21 | 114.3 |

TOTAL OFFENSE

| | G | PLAYS | YDS | Avg | TD | YDS/G |
|------------------|----|-------|------|------|----|--------|
| Dayton | 10 | 616 | 2631 | 4.27 | 17 | 263.10 |
| Northwestern St. | 12 | 732 | 3296 | 4.50 | 36 | 274.67 |
| Alabama A&M | 11 | 739 | 3035 | 4.11 | 27 | 275.91 |
| Ga. Southern | 12 | 741 | 3321 | 4.48 | 28 | 276.75 |
| Robert Morris | 11 | 690 | 3181 | 4.61 | 27 | 281.18 |
| Southern Utah | 11 | 735 | 3256 | 4.43 | 31 | 296.00 |
| Drake | 12 | 799 | 3586 | 4.49 | 27 | 298.83 |
| Howard | 11 | 733 | 3289 | 4.49 | 27 | 299.00 |
| Colgate | 11 | 679 | 3293 | 4.85 | 30 | 299.36 |
| Villanova | 11 | 752 | 3295 | 4.38 | 33 | 299.55 |
| Murray St. | 11 | 746 | 3310 | 4.44 | 30 | 300.91 |
| Western Carolina | 11 | 740 | 3321 | 4.49 | 31 | 301.91 |
| Southern Ill. | 12 | 814 | 3652 | 4.49 | 19 | 304.33 |
| Duquesne | 10 | 679 | 3046 | 4.49 | 28 | 304.60 |
| Northern Iowa | 11 | 703 | 3335 | 4.77 | 24 | 305.00 |
| Harvard | 10 | 680 | 3062 | 4.50 | 17 | 306.20 |
| Lehigh | 12 | 830 | 3693 | 4.45 | 26 | 307.75 |
| Ark.-Pine Bluff | 8 | 612 | 2778 | 4.54 | 25 | 308.67 |

SCORING OFFENSE

| | G | PTS | TD | Avg |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |

<tbl_r cells="5" ix="5" max

| NAME | CONFERENCE | | | OVERALL | | | | |
|---------------------|------------|---|-----|---------|---|---|-----|-----|
| | W | L | PF | PA | W | L | PF | PA |
| North Dakota | 4 | 2 | 172 | 126 | 9 | 2 | 418 | 207 |
| South Dakota | 4 | 2 | 157 | 116 | 8 | 3 | 354 | 200 |
| Iowa State | 3 | 3 | 116 | 126 | 6 | 5 | 283 | 263 |
| Minnesota State | 1 | 5 | 105 | 190 | 4 | 7 | 203 | 300 |
| Northwestern (N.D.) | 0 | 6 | 72 | 182 | 3 | 8 | 207 | 269 |

RTHEAST-10

| | | | | | | | | |
|----------------|---|---|-----|-----|---|----|-----|-----|
| Lehigh | 8 | 1 | 374 | 122 | 8 | 2 | 418 | 169 |
| C.W. Post | 8 | 1 | 312 | 118 | 8 | 3 | 328 | 181 |
| Temple Conn. | 7 | 2 | 325 | 111 | 8 | 2 | 376 | 138 |
| Temple | 7 | 2 | 269 | 173 | 8 | 2 | 306 | 186 |
| American Int'l | 5 | 4 | 166 | 222 | 5 | 4 | 166 | 222 |
| Princeton | 4 | 5 | 141 | 188 | 4 | 5 | 141 | 188 |
| Seton Hall | 3 | 6 | 142 | 271 | 4 | 6 | 166 | 271 |
| Georgetown | 2 | 7 | 95 | 255 | 2 | 7 | 95 | 255 |
| Georgetown | 1 | 8 | 73 | 255 | 1 | 9 | 79 | 278 |
| Georgetown | 0 | 9 | 91 | 273 | 0 | 10 | 97 | 286 |

NORTHERN SUN

| | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------|---|---|-----|-----|---|---|-----|-----|
| Iona State | 7 | 0 | 294 | 131 | 7 | 0 | 294 | 131 |
| Midway State | 5 | 2 | 230 | 129 | 5 | 2 | 230 | 129 |
| Therm State | 5 | 2 | 216 | 180 | 5 | 2 | 216 | 180 |
| Cardinal St. Paul | 4 | 3 | 261 | 192 | 4 | 3 | 261 | 192 |
| Minnesota State | 3 | 4 | 162 | 228 | 3 | 4 | 162 | 228 |
| Minnesota-Crookston | 2 | 5 | 139 | 198 | 2 | 5 | 139 | 198 |
| Wayne State | 2 | 5 | 133 | 201 | 2 | 5 | 133 | 201 |
| Northwood St. (Minn.) | 0 | 7 | 100 | 276 | 0 | 7 | 100 | 276 |

ENNSYLVANIA STATE ATHLETIC

| ASTERN | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------|---|---|-----|-----|----|----|-----|-----|
| West Chester | 6 | 0 | 274 | 86 | 11 | 4 | 527 | 306 |
| Stroudsburg | 5 | 1 | 261 | 111 | 10 | 2 | 447 | 256 |
| Williamsburg | 4 | 2 | 226 | 104 | 7 | 3 | 344 | 193 |
| Millersville | 3 | 3 | 164 | 159 | 5 | 5 | 261 | 280 |
| Gettysburg | 2 | 4 | 166 | 193 | 4 | 6 | 233 | 285 |
| Franklin & Marshall | 1 | 5 | 64 | 238 | 1 | 9 | 134 | 395 |
| McDaniel | 0 | 6 | 32 | 296 | 1 | 10 | 70 | 549 |

WESTERN

| | | | | | | | | |
|----------------|---|---|-----|-----|----|---|-----|-----|
| Pittsburgh | 5 | 1 | 173 | 65 | 10 | 2 | 392 | 163 |
| Dinboro | 5 | 1 | 187 | 112 | 9 | 3 | 398 | 259 |
| Indiana (Pa.) | 5 | 1 | 182 | 104 | 7 | 3 | 294 | 230 |
| Alifoma (Pa.) | 2 | 4 | 178 | 199 | 6 | 4 | 365 | 259 |
| Lafayette Rock | 2 | 4 | 149 | 158 | 4 | 7 | 272 | 271 |
| Lafayette | 1 | 5 | 92 | 176 | 3 | 8 | 202 | 286 |
| Lock Haven | 1 | 5 | 77 | 224 | 3 | 8 | 172 | 417 |

ROCKY MOUNTAIN ATHLETIC

| | | | | | | | | |
|----------------------|---|---|-----|-----|----|----|-----|-----|
| Colorado Mines | 8 | 0 | 319 | 146 | 12 | 1 | 515 | 301 |
| Chadron State | 6 | 2 | 307 | 218 | 7 | 3 | 378 | 296 |
| Adams State | 6 | 2 | 201 | 132 | 7 | 4 | 225 | 167 |
| Fort Hays State | 5 | 3 | 244 | 219 | 6 | 5 | 295 | 295 |
| Nebraska-Kearney | 4 | 4 | 234 | 220 | 5 | 6 | 298 | 309 |
| Fort Lewis | 3 | 5 | 216 | 240 | 4 | 6 | 261 | 284 |
| New Mexico Highlands | 2 | 6 | 140 | 256 | 3 | 8 | 200 | 376 |
| Western State | 2 | 6 | 141 | 228 | 3 | 8 | 194 | 335 |
| Mesa State | 0 | 8 | 130 | 273 | 0 | 11 | 175 | 422 |

SOUTH ATLANTIC

| | | | | | | | | |
|---------------|---|---|-----|-----|---|---|-----|-----|
| Carson-Newman | 6 | 1 | 292 | 152 | 9 | 3 | 444 | 332 |
| Wingate | 4 | 3 | 176 | 197 | 8 | 3 | 338 | 265 |
| Catawba | 4 | 3 | 225 | 206 | 7 | 4 | 403 | 280 |
| Tusculum | 4 | 3 | 178 | 163 | 6 | 4 | 268 | 229 |
| Presbyterian | 4 | 3 | 156 | 131 | 6 | 5 | 239 | 230 |
| Mars Hill | 3 | 4 | 147 | 178 | 6 | 4 | 291 | 203 |
| Lenoir-Rhyne | 2 | 5 | 120 | 220 | 3 | 8 | 198 | 290 |
| Newberry | 1 | 6 | 177 | 224 | 5 | 6 | 340 | 287 |

SOUTHERN INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETIC

| | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------|---|---|-----|-----|----|---|-----|-----|
| Albany State (Ga.) | 8 | 0 | 322 | 96 | 11 | 1 | 449 | 199 |
| Tuskegee | 7 | 1 | 310 | 133 | 10 | 2 | 425 | 208 |
| Miles | 6 | 2 | 191 | 133 | 7 | 3 | 233 | 156 |
| Kentucky State | 5 | 3 | 173 | 200 | 7 | 4 | 255 | 265 |
| Fort Valley State | 4 | 4 | 248 | 150 | 7 | 4 | 362 | 190 |
| Morehouse | 3 | 5 | 136 | 255 | 4 | 6 | 187 | 295 |
| Benedict | 2 | 6 | 112 | 205 | 3 | 8 | 133 | 299 |
| Clark-Atlanta | 1 | 7 | 177 | 334 | 1 | 9 | 231 | 402 |
| Lane | 0 | 8 | 81 | 244 | 2 | 9 | 128 | 283 |

WEST VIRGINIA

| INTERCOLLEGiate ATHLETIC | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------|---|---|-----|-----|---|---|-----|-----|
| Shepherd | 7 | 0 | 278 | 84 | 7 | 3 | 320 | 162 |
| Glenville State | 5 | 2 | 190 | 152 | 5 | 6 | 234 | 325 |
| W. Va. Wesleyan | 4 | 3 | 224 | 174 | 6 | 5 | 336 | 290 |
| Fairmont State | 4 | 3 | 230 | 135 | 5 | 5 | 297 | 243 |
| Concord | 4 | 3 | 129 | 151 | 5 | 6 | 203 | 334 |
| West Virginia State | 2 | 5 | 108 | 206 | 3 | 8 | 130 | 325 |
| WVU Tech | 2 | 5 | 119 | 238 | 2 | 9 | 190 | 433 |
| Charleston (W.Va.) | 0 | 0 | 109 | 103 | 3 | 7 | 272 | 314 |
| West Liberty State | 0 | 7 | 107 | 245 | 2 | 8 | 187 | 304 |

INDEPENDENTS

| | | | | |
|--------------------|---|---|-----|-----|
| Lincoln | 1 | 9 | 132 | 164 |
| North Greenville | 0 | 6 | 54 | 267 |
| Panhandle State | 6 | 5 | 290 | 297 |
| St. Joseph's | 7 | 4 | 322 | 288 |
| Tiffin | 5 | 6 | 360 | 328 |
| Upper Iowa | 2 | 8 | 211 | 326 |
| Western New Mexico | 2 | 8 | 213 | 344 |

Division III >>

| CONFERENCE | | | OVERALL | | | |
|---------------------|---|----|---------|-----|----|---|
| W | L | PF | PA | W | L | |
| AMERICAN SOUTHWEST | 9 | 0 | 416 | 149 | 10 | 1 |
| Hardin-Simmons | 8 | 1 | 496 | 195 | 13 | 2 |
| Mary Hardin-Baylor | 7 | 2 | 342 | 144 | 7 | 4 |
| Texas Lutheran | 7 | 2 | 343 | 296 | 7 | 3 |
| Howard Payne | 6 | 3 | 348 | 324 | 7 | 3 |
| Louisiana College | 4 | 5 | 321 | 381 | 5 | 5 |
| East Texas Baptist | 4 | 5 | 238 | 268 | 4 | 6 |
| Austin College | 3 | 6 | 150 | 259 | 3 | 7 |
| Sul Ross State | 2 | 7 | 182 | 320 | 2 | 8 |
| McMurry | 1 | 8 | 214 | 333 | 2 | 8 |
| Mississippi College | 1 | 8 | 158 | 341 | 1 | 9 |

ATLANTIC CENTRAL

| CONFERENCE | | | OVERALL | | | |
|-----------------|---|----|---------|-----|----|----|
| W | L | PF | PA | W | L | |
| Delaware Valley | 9 | 0 | 268 | 160 | 12 | 1 |
| Moravian | 7 | 2 | 288 | 199 | 7 | 4 |
| Albright | 6 | 3 | 342 | 278 | 8 | 3 |
| Wilkes | 6 | 3 | 267 | 164 | 6 | 4 |
| Widener | 5 | 4 | 198 | 250 | 6 | 4 |
| King's | 4 | 5 | 240 | 202 | 4 | 6 |
| Susquehanna | 3 | 6 | 263 | 288 | 4 | 6 |
| FDU-Florham | 3 | 6 | 139 | 243 | 4 | 6 |
| Lebanon Valley | 3 | 6 | 148 | 246 | 4 | 6 |
| Lycoming | 1 | 8 | 116 | 289 | 1 | 9 |
| Juniata | 0 | 5 | 45 | 105 | 0 | 10 |

MIDWEST

| CONFERENCE | | | OVERALL | | | |
|-------------|---|----|---------|-----|---|---|
| W | L | PF | PA | W | L | |
| St. Norbert | 9 | 0 | 423 | 150 | 9 | 2 |
| Monmouth | 8 | 1 | 322 | 140 | 9 | 1 |
| Lake Forest | 7 | 2 | 238 | 133 | 8 | 2 |
| Illinois | 5 | 4 | 254 | 193 | 6 | 4 |
| Grinnell | 5 | 4 | 207 | 243 | 6 | 4 |
| Ripon | 4 | 5 | 267 | 311 | 5 | 5 |
| Carroll | 3 | 6 | 255 | 254 | 3 | 7 |
| Beloit | 2 | 7 | 192 | 268 | 3 | 7 |
| Lawrence | 1 | 8 | 148 | 385 | 2 | 8 |
| Knox | | | | | | |

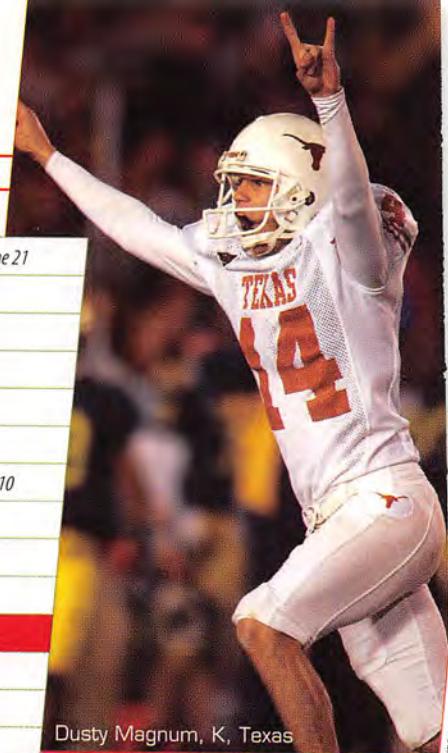
2004 RECAP >>>

DIVISION RESULTS

Bowl Games

| | |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Alamo Bowl | Ohio State 33, Oklahoma State 7 |
| Capital One Bowl | Iowa 30, LSU 25 |
| Champs Sports Bowl | Georgia Tech 51, Syracuse 14 |
| Continental Tire Bowl | Boston College 37, North Carolina 24 |
| Cotton Bowl | Tennessee 38, Texas A&M 7 |
| Emerald Bowl | Navy 34, New Mexico 19 |
| Fiesta Bowl | Utah 35, Pittsburgh 7 |
| Fort Worth Bowl | Cincinnati 32, Marshall 14 |
| Gator Bowl | Florida State 30, West Virginia 18 |
| GMAC Bowl | Bowling Green 52, Memphis 35 |
| Hawaii Bowl | Hawaii 59, UAB 40 |
| Holiday Bowl | Texas Tech 45, California 31 |
| Houston Bowl | Colorado 33, UTEP 28 |
| Independence Bowl | Iowa State 17, Miami (Ohio) 13 |

| | |
|--------------------|----------------------------------|
| Insight Bowl | Oregon State 38, Notre Dame 21 |
| Las Vegas Bowl | Wyoming 24, UCLA 21 |
| Liberty Bowl | Louisville 44, Boise State 40 |
| MPC Computers Bowl | Fresno State 37, Virginia 34 |
| Motor City Bowl | Connecticut 39, Toledo 10 |
| Music City Bowl | Minnesota 20, Alabama 16 |
| New Orleans Bowl | Southern Miss 31, North Texas 10 |
| Orange Bowl | USC 55, Oklahoma 19 |
| Outback Bowl | Georgia 24, Wisconsin 21 |
| Peach Bowl | Miami 27, Florida 10 |
| Rose Bowl | Texas 38, Michigan 37 |
| Silicon Valley | Northern Illinois 34, Troy 21 |
| Sugar Bowl | Auburn 16, Virginia Tech 13 |
| Sun Bowl | Arizona State 27, Purdue 23 |



Dusty Magnum, K, Texas

Division I-AA Playoffs

| FIRST ROUND | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Eastern Washington 35 | Southern Illinois 31 |
| Sam Houston State 54 | Western Kentucky 24 |
| Montana 56 | Northwestern State 7 |
| New Hampshire 27 | Georgia Southern 23 |
| William & Mary 42 | Hampton 35 |
| Delaware 28 | Lafayette 14 |
| James Madison 14 | Lehigh 13 |
| Furman 49 | Jacksonville State 7 |
| QUARTERFINALS | |
| Sam Houston State 35 | Eastern Washington 34 |
| Montana 47 | New Hampshire 17 |
| William & Mary 44 | Delaware 38 |
| James Madison 14 | Furman 13 |
| SEMIFINAL | |
| Montana 34 | Sam Houston State 13 |
| James Madison 48 | William & Mary 34 |
| CHAMPIONSHIP | |
| James Madison 31 | Montana 21 |

NAIA Playoffs

| FIRST ROUND | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Carroll (Mont.) 24 | Mary (N.D.) 14 |
| Dickinson State (N.D.) 30 | Montana Tech 13 |
| MidAmerica Nazarene (Kan.) 21 | McKendree (Ill.) 20 |
| Georgetown (Ky.) 35 | Trinity International (Ill.) 21 |
| Azusa Pacific (Calif.) 16 | NW Oklahoma State 0 |
| Sioux Falls (S.D.) 72 | Tabor (Kan.) 11 |
| St. Francis (Ind.) 53 | Morningside (Iowa) 3 |
| Hastings (Neb.) 20 | Lindenwood (Mo.) 19 |
| QUARTERFINALS | |
| St. Francis 48 | Hastings 17 |
| Georgetown 46 | MNU 27 |
| Carroll 56 | Dickinson State 17 |
| Azusa Pacific 24 | Sioux Falls 3 |
| SEMIFINAL | |
| St. Francis 12 | Georgetown 7 |
| Carroll 14 | Azusa Pacific 10 |
| CHAMPIONSHIP | |
| Carroll | St. Francis 13 |

Division II Playoffs

| FIRST ROUND | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| North Dakota 20 | St. Cloud State 17 |
| Grand Valley St. 16 | Winona State 13 |
| Colorado Mines 52 | Midwestern State 33 |
| Texas A&M-Kingsville 40 | Southeastern Oklahoma 30 |
| West Chester 35 | C.W. Post 3 |
| Edinboro 47 | Bentley 44 |
| Arkansas Tech 24 | Catawba 20 |
| Carson-Newman 35 | Fayetteville State 14 |
| SECOND ROUND | |
| North Dakota 20 | Michigan Tech 3 |
| Grand Valley State 10 | Northwood 7 |
| Pittsburg State 70 | Colorado Mines 35 |
| Northwest Missouri St. 34 | Texas A&M-Kingsville 14 |
| West Chester 33 | Shippensburg 28 |
| East Stroudsburg 36 | Edinboro 32 |
| Albany State (Ga.) 42 | Arkansas Tech 24 |
| Valdosta State 38 | Carson-Newman 12 |
| QUARTERFINALS | |
| North Dakota 19 | Grand Valley State 15 |
| Pittsburg State 50 | Northwest Missouri St. 36 |
| West Chester 48 | East Stroudsburg 38 |
| Valdosta State 38 | Albany State (Ga.) 24 |
| SEMIFINAL | |
| Pittsburg State 31 | North Dakota 19 |
| Valdosta State 45 | West Chester 21 |
| CHAMPIONSHIP | |
| Valdosta State 36 | Pittsburg State 31 |

I-A Coaching Changes for 2005

| School | Former Coach | New Coach |
|------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Brigham Young | Gary Crowton | Bronco Mendenhall |
| East Carolina | John Thompson | Skip Holtz |
| Florida | Ron Zook | Urban Meyer |
| Illinois | Ron Turner | Ron Zook |
| Indiana | Gerry DiNardo | Terry Hoeppner |
| LSU | Nick Saban | Les Miles |
| Marshall | Bob Prueett | Mark Snyder |
| Miami (Ohio) | Terry Hoeppner | Shane Montgomery |
| Mississippi | David Cutcliffe | Ed Orgeron |
| New Mexico State | Tony Samuel | Hal Mumme |
| Notre Dame | Tyrone Willingham | Charlie Weis |
| Ohio | Brian Knorr | Frank Solich |

Division III Playoffs

| FIRST ROUND | |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| Wis.-La Crosse 37 | St. Norbert 23 |
| Occidental 28 | Willamette 14 |
| Concordia-Morehead 28 | Wartburg 14 |
| Hobart 35 | Curry 16 |
| St. John Fisher 31 | Muhlenberg 3 |
| Delaware Valley 21 | Shenandoah 17 |
| Mary Hardin-Baylor 32 | Trinity (Texas) 13 |
| Christopher Newport 35 | Salisbury 24 |
| Wash. & Jeff. 55 | Bridgewater 48 |
| Wheaton (Ill.) 31 | Mt. St. Joseph 7 |
| Carthage 31 | Alma 28 |
| Wooster 41 | Aurora 34 |
| SECOND ROUND | |
| Linfield 52 | Wis.-La Crosse 14 |
| Occidental 42 | Concordia-Morehead 40 |
| Rowan 45 | Hobart 14 |
| Delaware Valley 26 | St. John Fisher 20 |
| Mary Hardin-Baylor 42 | Hardin-Simmons 28 |
| Wash. & Jeff. 24 | Christopher Newport 14 |
| Mount Union 27 | Wheaton (Ill.) 6 |
| Carthage 14 | Wooster 7 |
| QUARTERFINALS | |
| Linfield 56 | Occidental 27 |
| Rowan 56 | Delaware Valley 7 |
| Mary Hardin-Baylor 52 | Wash. & Jeff. 16 |
| Mount Union 38 | Carthage 20 |
| SEMIFINAL | |
| Linfield 52 | Rowan 0 |
| Mary Hardin-Baylor 38 | Mount Union 35 |
| CHAMPIONSHIP | |
| Linfield 28 | Mary Hardin-Baylor 21 |

| School | Former Coach | New Coach |
|------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| Oklahoma State | Les Miles | Mike Gundy |
| Pittsburgh | Walt Harris | Dave Wannstedt |
| San Jose State | Fitz Hill | Dick Tomey |
| South Carolina | Lou Holtz | Steve Spurrier |
| Stanford | Buddy Teevens | Walt Harris |
| Syracuse | Paul Pasqualoni | Greg Robinson |
| UNLV | John Robinson | Mike Sanford |
| Utah | Urban Meyer | Kyle Whittingham |
| Utah State | Mick Denney | Brent Guy |
| Washington | Keith Gilbertson | Tyrone Willingham |
| Western Michigan | Gary Darnell | Bill Cubit |

SUMMER FUN



HAMMOCK

This comfortable woven hammock is the perfect place to relax in your backyard. The roomy hammock features a removable pillow, a bed that measures 55" x 82", and a total length of 13 feet. Make this great looking hammock the centerpiece of your relaxation this summer! Hammock is available for the following teams:

NFL: Packers, Steelers, Jets, Raiders, Eagles NCAA: Georgia, Ohio State, West Virginia - \$120 plus S/H

POOL FLOAT/AIR MATTRESS

This hot new item doubles as both a pool float and an air mattress when you need an extra bed. This tough float measures 70" x 30" with a built in pillow, and it comes with built in grommets for wall hanging when not in use. Place your order today so you don't miss the pool season. The float is available for the following NFL and NCAA teams: NFL: Cowboys, Packers, Steelers, Dolphins, Raiders, Patriots, Redskins, Eagles, Ravens NCAA: Tennessee, Florida, Alabama, Georgia, Nebraska, Michigan, Clemson, Oklahoma, Penn State, South Carolina, Michigan St., Ohio State, LSU, Texas Tech - \$49.99 plus S/H

Order Form

| ITEM | QTY. | TEAM | PRICE |
|------------|------|------|-------|
| Hammock | | | |
| Pool Float | | | |
| Subtotal | | | |

S/H

Total

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State/Zip _____

Phone # _____

Credit Card Information:

AMEX Discover VISA MasterCard

Exp. date _____

Card # _____

Send Checks Made Payable To:

Street & Smith's Sports Gear
120 West Morehead Street, Suite 100, Charlotte, NC 28202

Allow 3-4 weeks for delivery

Street & Smith's
Sports Gear

PHONE 1-800-380-7404 • FAX 1-800-486-1513

Shipping/Handling: \$10 for first item; \$5 for each additional item

Tax: NC residents add 7.5% sales tax



DIVISION I-AA SCHEDULES 2005

ALABAMA A&M NORMAL, AL

| | | |
|------|--------------------------|-------|
| S.3 | @TENNESSEE STATE | 7-42 |
| S.10 | @GRAMBLING STATE | 21-9 |
| S.17 | Mississippi Valley State | 30-20 |
| S.24 | Allen | |
| O.1 | Texas Southern | 22-3 |
| O.8 | @SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY | 24-33 |
| O.22 | Arkansas-Pine Bluff | 10-24 |
| O.29 | @ALABAMA STATE ♦ | 20-24 |
| N.5 | Jackson State | 22-6 |
| N.12 | @ALCORN STATE | 27-21 |
| N.19 | @PRAIRIE VIEW A&M | 42-6 |

♦ At Birmingham, AL

Coach: Anthony Jones

Colors: Maroon & White

Nickname: Bulldogs

2004 Record: 7-4

ALABAMA STATE MONTGOMERY, AL

| | | |
|------|---------------------------|-------|
| S.3 | South Carolina State ♦ | |
| S.10 | @TEXAS SOUTHERN | 55-15 |
| S.17 | @ARKANSAS-PINE BLUFF | 21-14 |
| S.24 | Alcorn State | 41-8 |
| O.1 | Southern University* | 41-42 |
| O.8 | @JACKSON STATE | 28-6 |
| O.15 | Prairie View A&M | 42-20 |
| O.29 | Alabama A&M ♦ | 24-20 |
| N.5 | Grambling State | 37-23 |
| N.12 | @MISSISSIPPI VALLEY STATE | 34-6 |
| N.24 | Tuskegee | 17-27 |

♦ At Birmingham, AL

Coach: Charles Coe III

Colors: Black & Old Gold

Nickname: Hornets

2004 Record: 10-2

ALBANY ALBANY, NY

| | | |
|------|----------------------------|-------|
| S.10 | Hofstra | 0-45 |
| S.17 | @MASSACHUSETTS | |
| S.24 | @CENTRAL CONNECTICUT STATE | 23-28 |
| O.1 | MAINE | |
| O.8 | Stony Brook | 27-22 |
| O.15 | Sacred Heart | 23-6 |
| O.22 | @ST. FRANCIS (PA) | 38-0 |
| O.29 | @WAGNER | 35-27 |
| N.5 | Robert Morris | 7-34 |
| N.12 | @MONMOUTH | 24-25 |
| N.19 | @FORDHAM | 0-14 |

Coach: Bob Ford

Colors:

Nickname: Great Danes

2004 Record: 4-7

ALCORN STATE ALCORN STATE, MS

| | | |
|------|--------------------------|-------|
| S.3 | Grambling State | 34-23 |
| S.10 | @SOUTHEASTERN LOUISIANA | 33-27 |
| S.17 | Langston | |
| S.24 | @ALABAMA STATE | 8-41 |
| O.1 | Arkansas-Pine Bluff | |
| O.8 | Prairie View A&M | 26-15 |
| O.15 | @TEXAS SOUTHERN ♦ | 30-0 |
| O.22 | @SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY | 20-23 |
| N.5 | Mississippi Valley State | 31-30 |
| N.12 | Alabama A&M | 21-27 |
| N.19 | @JACKSON STATE | 16-14 |

♦ At Houston, TX

Coach: Dr. Johnny Thomas

Colors: Alcorn Purple & Old Gold

Nickname: Braves

2004 Record: 7-4

APPALACHIAN STATE BOONE, NC

| | | |
|------|-------------------|-------|
| S.3 | @EASTERN KENTUCKY | 49-21 |
| S.10 | @KANSAS | |
| S.17 | Coastal Carolina | |
| S.24 | @CITADEL | 28-14 |
| O.8 | @FURMAN | 30-29 |
| O.15 | Georgia Southern | 7-54 |
| O.22 | @WOFFORD | 38-17 |
| O.29 | Chattanooga | 56-59 |
| N.5 | @LSU | |
| N.12 | Western Carolina | 27-30 |
| N.19 | @ELON | 48-7 |

Coach: Jerry Moore

Colors: Black & Gold

Nickname: Mountaineers

2004 Record: 6-5

ARKANSAS-PINE BLUFF PINE BLUFF, AR

| | | |
|------|---------------------------|-------|
| S.3 | @MISSISSIPPI VALLEY STATE | 49-14 |
| S.10 | @BETHUNE-COOKMAN | 14-27 |
| S.17 | Alabama State | 14-21 |
| S.24 | Tusculum | |
| O.1 | @ALCORN STATE | |
| O.15 | Grambling State | 41-22 |
| O.22 | @ALABAMA A&M | 24-10 |
| O.29 | @JACKSON STATE | 35-42 |
| N.5 | Prairie View A&M | 24-23 |
| N.12 | Southern University | |
| N.19 | @TEXAS SOUTHERN | 42-0 |

♦ At St. Louis, MO

Coach: Maurice Forte

Colors: Black & Gold

Nickname: Golden Lions

2004 Record: 6-3

AUSTIN PEY CLARKSVILLE, TN

| | | |
|------|-----------------------|------------|
| S.3 | @CHARLESTON UNIV | 28-20 |
| S.10 | Cumberland University | |
| S.17 | @DAYTON | 0-40 |
| S.24 | @DRAKE | |
| O.1 | Valparaiso | 14-24 |
| O.8 | @DAVIDSON | 20-17 (OT) |
| O.15 | @MOREHEAD STATE | 14-28 |
| O.22 | Jacksonville | 14-31 |
| O.29 | Missouri-Rolla | |
| N.5 | St. Joseph's (IN) | 12-50 |
| N.12 | @MURRAY STATE | |

Coach: Carroll McCray

Nickname: Governors

Colors: Red & White

2004 Record: 2-9

CENTRAL CONNECTICUT STATE NEW BRITAIN, CT

| | | |
|------|-------------------|------------|
| S.3 | @COLGATE | |
| S.10 | Rhode Island | 7-39 |
| S.17 | @MARIST | 28-13 |
| S.24 | Albany | 28-23 |
| O.1 | St. Peter's | 30-15 |
| O.8 | @ST. FRANCIS (PA) | 35-17 |
| O.15 | Robert Morris | 34-21 |
| O.22 | @WAGNER | 28-21 (OT) |
| O.29 | Monmouth | 6-9 |
| N.5 | @SACRED HEART | 27-6 |
| N.12 | @STONY BROOK | 38-28 |

Coach: Tom Masella

Nickname: Blue Devils

Colors: Blue & White

2004 Record: 8-2

COLUMBIA NEW YORK, NY

| | | |
|------|--------------|------------|
| S.17 | @FORDHAM | 14-17 |
| S.24 | Duquesne | |
| O.1 | @PRINCETON | 26-27 (OT) |
| O.8 | @LAFAYETTE | 14-35 |
| O.15 | Pennsylvania | 3-14 |
| O.22 | @DARTMOUTH | 9-6 |
| O.29 | Yale | 14-21 |
| N.5 | Harvard | 0-38 |
| N.12 | @CORNELL | 26-32 |
| N.19 | Brown | 21-33 |

Coach: Bob Shoop

Nickname: Lions

Colors: Columbia Blue & White

2004 Record: 1-9

BETHUNE-COOKMAN DAYTONA BEACH, FL

| | | |
|------|------------------------|------------|
| S.3 | Elizabeth City State | |
| S.10 | Arkansas-Pine Bluff | 27-14 |
| S.17 | South Carolina State ♦ | 14-28 |
| S.24 | @NORFOLK STATE | 43-3 |
| O.1 | Morgan State | 51-21 |
| O.8 | @DELAWARE STATE | 45-16 |
| O.15 | @SAVANNAH STATE | |
| O.22 | @NORTH CAROLINA A&T | 45-17 |
| N.5 | Hampton | 17-24 |
| N.12 | @HOWARD | 7-10 |
| N.19 | Florida A&M* | 58-52 (OT) |

♦ At Jacksonville, FL

Coach: Alvin Wyatt

Colors: Maroon & Gold

Nickname: Wildcats

2004 Record: 6-4

CHARLESTON SOUTHERN CHARLESTON, SC

| | | |
|------|--------------------|-------|
| S.3 | @CITADEL | |
| S.10 | Presbyterian | 14-19 |
| S.17 | Jacksonville | 38-3 |
| S.24 | @NORTH GREENVILLE | 55-7 |
| O.1 | Howard | 6-24 |
| O.8 | @VIRGINIA MILITARY | 25-24 |
| O.15 | @NORTH GREENVILLE | 55-7 |
| O.22 | Savannah State | |
| N.5 | @GARDNER-WEBB | 0-18 |
| N.12 | Liberty | 6-34 |
| N.19 | Coastal Carolina | 28-56 |

Coach: Jay Mills

Nickname: Buccaneers

Colors: Blue & Gold

2004 Record: 5-5

BROWN PROVIDENCE, RI

| | | |
|------|--------------|------------|
| S.17 | @GEORGETOWN | |
| S.24 | @HARVARD | 34-35 |
| O.1 | Rhode Island | 20-13 |
| O.8 | Fordham | 27-20 (OT) |
| O.15 | Princeton | 10-24 |
| O.22 | @CORNELL | 21-17 |
| O.29 | Pennsylvania | 16-20 |
| N.5 | @YALE | 24-17 |
| N.12 | Dartmouth | 7-20 |
| N.19 | @COLUMBIA | 33-21 |

Coach: Phil Estes

Nickname: Bears

Colors: Brown, Red & White

2004 Record: 6-4

BUCKNELL LEWISBURG, PA

| | | |
|------|---------------|------------|
| S.3 | Georgetown | 35-19 |
| S.10 | @STONY BROOK | |
| S.17 | @CORNELL | 15-9 |
| O.1 | Marist | |
| O.8 | @PENNSYLVANIA | 25-32 (OT) |
| O.15 | Villanova | 14-20 |
| O.22 | Lehigh | 17-40 |
| O.29 | @LAFAYETTE | 13-14 |
| N.5 | Fordham | 21-20 |
| N.12 | @COLGATE | 42-7 |
| N.19 | Holy Cross | 42-27 |

Coach: Tim Landis

Nickname: Bison

Colors: Blue & Orange

2004 Record: 7-4

BUCKNELL INDIANAPOLIS, IN

| | | |
|------|-------------------|-------|
| S.3 | Albion | 12-13 |
| S.10 | @TIFIN | 3-48 |
| S.17 | @ROBERT MORRIS | |
| S.24 | @JACKSONVILLE | 15-9 |
| O.1 | Morehead State | 7-15 |
| O.8 | @SAN DIEGO | 12-41 |
| O.15 | Valparaiso | 26-31 |
| O.22 | St. Joseph's (IN) | 0-34 |
| O.29 | @DRAKE | 6-43 |
| N.5 | Dayton | 10-49 |
| N.12 | Missouri-Rolla | |

Coach: Kit Cartwright

Nickname: Bulldogs

Colors: Blue & White

2004 Record: 1-10

COASTAL CAROLINA CONWAY, SC

| | | |
|------|-----------------------|-------|
| S.3 | @ELON | |
| S.10 | James Madison | |
| S.17 | @APPALACHIAN STATE | |
| S.24 | Delaware State | |
| O.1 | @SOUTH CAROLINA STATE | |
| O.8 | Gardner-Webb | 31-19 |
| O.15 | Lehigh | 33-6 |
| O.22 | @GEORGIA SOUTHERN | 21-14 |
| N.5 | Virginia Military | 52-14 |
| N.12 | Mansfield | |
| N.19 | @CHARLESTON SOUTHERN | 56-28 |

Coach: David Bennett

Nickname: Chanticleers

Colors: Coastal teal, bronze

2004 Record: 10-1

COLGATE HAMILTON, NY

| |
|-----|
| S.3 |
|-----|



*ores at right indicate 2004 results

DELAWARE STATE DOVER, DE

| | |
|-------|-----------------------|
| S. 3 | @FLORIDA A&M |
| S. 10 | Millersville |
| S. 17 | @JAMES MADISON |
| S. 24 | @COASTAL CAROLINA |
| O. 1 | @HAMPTON |
| O. 8 | Bethune-Cookman |
| O. 15 | @NORTH CAROLINA A&T |
| O. 22 | Morgan State |
| O. 29 | @SOUTH CAROLINA STATE |
| N. 12 | Norfolk State |
| N. 19 | Howard |

Coach: Al Lavan
Nickname: Hornets

Colors: Columbia Blue & Red
2004 Record: 4-7

ELON ELON COLLEGE, NC

| | |
|-------|--------------------|
| S. 3 | Coastal Carolina |
| S. 10 | @SAVANNAH STATE |
| S. 17 | Presbyterian |
| S. 24 | North Carolina A&T |
| O. 1 | Georgia Southern |
| O. 8 | @WOFFORD |
| O. 15 | Chattanooga |
| O. 22 | @FURMAN |
| O. 29 | @WESTERN CAROLINA |
| N. 12 | @CITADEL |
| N. 19 | Appalachian State |

Coach: Paul Hamilton
Nickname: Phoenix

Colors: Maroon & Gold
2004 Record: 3-8

GEORGIA SOUTHERN STATESBORO, GA

| | |
|-------|---------------------|
| S. 3 | @NORTHEASTERN |
| S. 10 | McNeese State |
| S. 17 | @WOFFORD |
| S. 24 | Chattanooga |
| O. 1 | Elon |
| O. 8 | Western Carolina |
| O. 15 | @APPALACHIAN STATE |
| O. 22 | Citadel |
| O. 29 | @SOUTH DAKOTA STATE |
| N. 5 | Furman |
| N. 12 | Morehead State |

Coach: Mike Sekwak
Nickname: Eagles

Colors: Blue & White
2004 Record: 9-3

HOWARD WASHINGTON, DC

| | |
|-------|----------------------|
| S. 3 | Winston-Salem |
| S. 10 | Hampton |
| S. 17 | @FLORIDA A&M |
| S. 24 | @SAVANNAH STATE |
| O. 1 | @CHARLESTON SOUTHERN |
| O. 8 | @MORGAN STATE |
| O. 15 | @NORFOLK STATE |
| O. 22 | North Carolina A&T |
| O. 29 | South Carolina State |
| N. 5 | South Carolina State |
| N. 12 | Bethune-Cookman |
| N. 19 | @DELAWARE STATE |

Coach: Rayford T. Petty
Nickname: Bison

Colors: Navy Blue & White
2004 Record: 6-5

DRAKE DES MOINES, IA

| | |
|-------|------------------------|
| S. 1 | @NORTHERN IOWA |
| S. 10 | @ILLINOIS STATE |
| S. 17 | @WISCONSIN-PLATTEVILLE |
| S. 24 | Austin Peay |
| O. 1 | @DAVIDSON |
| O. 8 | Dayton |
| O. 22 | @SAN DIEGO |
| O. 29 | Butler |
| N. 5 | @VALPARAISO |
| N. 12 | Waldorf |

Coach: Rob Ash
Nickname: Bulldogs

Colors: Blue & White
2004 Record: 10-2

FLORIDA A&M TALLAHASSEE, FL

| | |
|-------|-------------------------|
| S. 3 | Delaware State |
| S. 10 | @SOUTH FLORIDA |
| S. 17 | Howard |
| S. 24 | Tennessee State ♦ |
| O. 1 | Florida International ✪ |
| O. 15 | @SOUTH CAROLINA STATE |
| O. 22 | Norfolk State |
| O. 29 | @MORGAN STATE |
| N. 5 | North Carolina A&T |
| N. 12 | @HAMPTON |
| N. 19 | @BETHUNE-COOKMAN * |

♦ At Atlanta, GA * At Miami, FL

★ At Orlando, FL

Coach: Billy Joe
Nickname: Rattlers

Colors: Orange & Green
2004 Record: 3-8

GRAMBLING STATE GRAMBLING, LA

| | |
|-------|--------------------------|
| S. 3 | @ALCORN STATE |
| S. 10 | Alabama A&M |
| S. 17 | @WASHINGTON STATE ♦ |
| O. 1 | Prairie View A&M ✪ |
| O. 8 | Mississippi Valley State |
| O. 15 | @ARKANSAS-PINE BLUFF |
| O. 22 | @JACKSON STATE |
| O. 29 | Texas Southern |
| N. 5 | @ALABAMA STATE |
| N. 12 | Southern University * |

♦ At Seattle, WA * At Dallas, TX

★ At New Orleans, LA

Coach: Melvin Spears
Nickname: Tigers

Colors: Black & Gold
2004 Record: 6-5

IDAHO STATE POCATELLO, ID

| | |
|-------|--------------------|
| S. 1 | Southern Utah |
| S. 10 | @KENTUCKY |
| S. 17 | Montana-Western |
| S. 24 | Eastern Washington |
| O. 1 | @MONTANA STATE |
| O. 8 | Montana |
| O. 15 | @SACRAMENTO STATE |
| O. 22 | @WEBER STATE |
| O. 29 | Portland State |
| N. 5 | @NORTHERN ARIZONA |
| N. 12 | @CAL POLY |

Coach: Larry Lewis
Nickname: Bengals

Colors: Black & Orange
2004 Record: 3-8

DUQUESNE PITTSBURGH, PA

| | |
|-------|-------------------|
| S. 3 | Robert Morris |
| S. 10 | Fordham |
| S. 17 | @PENNSYLVANIA |
| S. 24 | @COLUMBIA |
| O. 8 | @GEORGETOWN |
| O. 15 | St. Peter's |
| O. 22 | @MARIST |
| O. 29 | @IONA |
| N. 5 | La Salle |
| N. 12 | Dayton |
| N. 19 | @ST. FRANCIS (PA) |

Coach: Greg Gattuso
Nickname: Dukes

Colors: Red & Blue
2004 Record: 7-3

FORDHAM BRONX, NY

| | |
|-------|---------------|
| S. 3 | @RHODE ISLAND |
| S. 10 | @DUQUESNE |
| S. 17 | Columbia |
| S. 24 | @LAFAYETTE |
| O. 8 | @BROWN |
| O. 15 | @COLGATE |
| O. 22 | @GEORGETOWN |
| O. 29 | Holy Cross |
| N. 5 | Bucknell |
| N. 12 | Lehigh |
| N. 19 | Albany |

Coach: Ed Foley
Nickname: Rams

Colors: Maroon & White
2004 Record: 5-6

HAMPTON HAMPTON, VA

| | |
|-------|----------------------|
| S. 3 | Jackson State ♦ |
| S. 10 | @HOWARD |
| S. 17 | @NORTH CAROLINA A&T |
| S. 24 | Morgan State |
| O. 1 | Delaware State |
| O. 8 | @GARDNER-WEBB |
| O. 15 | @NORFOLK STATE |
| O. 22 | South Carolina State |
| O. 29 | @BETHUNE-COOKMAN |
| N. 5 | Florida A&M |
| N. 12 | Savannah State |

♦ At Detroit, MI

Coach: Joe Taylor
Nickname: Pirates

Colors: Royal Blue & White
2004 Record: 10-2

ILLINOIS STATE NORMAL, IL

| | |
|-------|--------------------|
| S. 3 | @IOWA STATE |
| S. 10 | Drake |
| S. 17 | @EASTERN ILLINOIS |
| S. 24 | Murray State |
| O. 1 | @YOUNGSTOWN STATE |
| O. 8 | Western Kentucky |
| O. 15 | @SOUTHERN ILLINOIS |
| O. 22 | Northern Iowa |
| O. 29 | Western Illinois |
| N. 5 | @SMS |
| N. 12 | Indiana State |

Coach: Denver Johnson
Nickname: Redbirds

Colors: Red & White
2004 Record: 4-7

INDIANA STATE TERRE HAUTE, IN

| | |
|-------|-------------------|
| S. 1 | Eastern Illinois |
| S. 10 | St. Francis (IN) |
| S. 17 | @MURRAY STATE |
| S. 24 | @TEXAS TECH |
| O. 1 | Western Kentucky |
| O. 8 | Youngstown State |
| O. 15 | @NORTHERN IOWA |
| O. 22 | Southern Illinois |
| O. 29 | @SMS |
| N. 5 | Western Illinois |
| N. 12 | @ILLINOIS STATE |

Coach: Tim McGuire
Nickname: Sycamores

Colors: Royal Blue & White
2004 Record: 4-7

IONA NEW ROCHELLE, NY

| | |
|-------|------------------|
| S. 3 | @MONTCLAIR STATE |
| S. 10 | Wagner |
| S. 17 | Sacred Heart |
| S. 24 | @STONEHILL |
| O. 1 | @LA SALLE |
| O. 8 | @ST. PETER'S |
| O. 22 | Assumption |
| O. 29 | Duquesne |
| N. 5 | Marist |
| N. 12 | @NEW HAMPSHIRE |

Coach: Fred Mariani
Nickname: Gaels

Colors: Maroon & Gold
2004 Record: 2-8

JACKSON STATE JACKSON, MS

| | |
|-------|---------------------------|
| S. 3 | @HAMPTON ♦ |
| S. 10 | Tennessee State ✪ |
| S. 17 | Texas Southern |
| S. 24 | @MISSISSIPPI VALLEY STATE |
| O. 1 | Alabama State |
| O. 8 | @SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY |
| O. 15 | Grambling State |
| O. 22 | Arkansas-Pine Bluff |
| N. 5 | @ALABAMA A&M |
| N. 12 | @PRAIRIE VIEW A&M |
| N. 19 | Alcorn State |

♦ At Detroit, MI

Coach: James Bell
Nickname: Tigers

Colors: Blue & White
2004 Record: 4-7

EASTERN WASHINGTON CHEYNEY, WA

| | |
|-------|-------------------|
| S. 3 | @SAN JOSE STATE |
| S. 17 | Western Oregon |
| S. 24 | @IDAHO STATE |
| O. 1 | Portland State |
| O. 8 | @NORTHERN ARIZONA |
| O. 15 | @MONTANA |
| O. 22 | Weber State |
| O. 29 | @SACRAMENTO STATE |
| N. 5 | @CAL POLY |
| N. 12 | Montana State |
| N. 19 | California-Davis |

Coach: Paul Wulf
Nickname: Eagles

Colors: Red & White
2004 Record: 9-4

GEORGETOWN WASHINGTON, DC

| | |
|-------|--------------|
| S. 3 | @BUCKNELL |
| S. 10 | @HOLY CROSS |
| S. 17 | Brown |
| S. 24 | @STONY BROOK |
| O. 1 | Lafayette |
| O. 8 | Duquesne |
| O. 15 | @CORNELL |
| O. 22 | Fordham |
| N. 5 | @LEHIGH |
| N. 12 | Davidson |
| N. 19 | Colgate |

Coach: Bob Benson
Nickname: Hoyas

Colors: Blue & Gray
2004 Record: 3-8

HOLY CROSS WORCESTER, MA

| | |
|-------|--------------|
| S. 3 | Sacred Heart |
| S. 10 | Georgetown |
| S. 17 | Harvard |
| S. 24 | @DELAWARE |
| O. 1 | Yale |
| O. 8 | @LEHIGH |
| O. 15 | Dartmouth |
| O. 22 | Colgate |
| O. 29 | @FORDHAM |
| N. 12 | Lafayette |
| N. 19 | @BUCKNELL |

Coach: Tom Gilmore
Nickname: Crusaders

Colors: Royal Purple & White
2004 Record: 3-8



DIVISION I-AA SCHEDULES 2005

JACKSONVILLE JACKSONVILLE, FL

| | | |
|-------|-------------------------|-------|
| S. 1 | @SOUTHEASTERN LOUISIANA | 3-51 |
| S. 17 | @CHARLESTON SOUTHERN | 3-38 |
| S. 24 | Butler | |
| O. 1 | @DAYTON | |
| O. 8 | Morehead State | 14-28 |
| O. 15 | Davidson | 29-26 |
| O. 22 | @AUSTIN PEAY | 31-14 |
| O. 29 | North Greenville | |
| N. 12 | @WEBBER INTERNATIONAL | 31-24 |

Coach: Steve Gilbert
Nickname: Dolphins

Colors: Green & White
2004 Record: 3-7

JACKSONVILLE STATE JACKSONVILLE, AL

| | | |
|-------|---------------------------|-------|
| S. 1 | Furman | 7-49 |
| S. 10 | Chattanooga | 65-20 |
| S. 17 | @UAB | |
| S. 24 | @SOUTHEAST MISSOURI STATE | 47-9 |
| O. 1 | Eastern Kentucky | 30-23 |
| O. 8 | @MURRAY STATE | 35-14 |
| O. 15 | Tennessee-Martin | 59-12 |
| O. 22 | @TENNESSEE STATE | 49-35 |
| O. 29 | Tennessee Tech | 13-16 |
| N. 12 | @SAMFORD | 51-18 |
| N. 19 | Eastern Illinois | 31-21 |

Coach: Jack Crowe
Nickname: Gamecocks

Colors: Red & White
2004 Record: 9-2

JAMES MADISON HARRISONBURG, VA

| | | |
|-------|-------------------|-------|
| S. 3 | Lock Haven | 62-7 |
| S. 10 | @COASTAL CAROLINA | |
| S. 17 | Delaware State | |
| O. 1 | @HOFSTRAS | 31-21 |
| O. 8 | Maine | 24-20 |
| O. 15 | @MASSACHUSETTS | 28-7 |
| O. 22 | @DELAWARE | 20-13 |
| O. 29 | Richmond | 26-20 |
| N. 5 | @WILLIAM & MARY | 48-34 |
| N. 12 | Villanova | 17-0 |
| N. 19 | Towson | 31-17 |

Coach: Mickey Matthews
Nickname: Dukes

Colors: Purple & Gold
2004 Record: 12-2

LA SALLE PHILADELPHIA, PA

| | | |
|-------|------------------------|-------|
| S. 3 | @WAGNER | 28-35 |
| S. 10 | Monmouth | 15-34 |
| S. 17 | Ursinus | 21-19 |
| S. 24 | St. Francis (PA) | 42-45 |
| O. 1 | Iona | 35-42 |
| O. 8 | @MARIST | 35-41 |
| O. 15 | @CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY | 56-22 |
| O. 22 | @COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY | 0-6 |
| O. 29 | Kean | |
| N. 5 | @DUQUESNE | 35-56 |
| N. 12 | St. Peter's | 30-27 |

Coach: Phil Longo
Nickname: Explorers

Colors: Blue & Gold
2004 Record: 3-7

LAFAYETTE EASTON, PA

| | | |
|-------|-------------|-------|
| S. 3 | @MARIST | 48-7 |
| S. 10 | Richmond | 21-16 |
| S. 17 | Princeton | 18-35 |
| S. 24 | Fordham | 35-20 |
| O. 1 | @GEorgetown | 17-6 |
| O. 8 | Columbia | 35-14 |
| O. 15 | Harvard | 23-38 |
| O. 29 | Bucknell | 14-13 |
| N. 5 | Colgate | 19-22 |
| N. 12 | @HOLY CROSS | 56-20 |
| N. 19 | Lehigh | 24-10 |

Coach: Frank Tavani
Nickname: Leopards

Colors: Maroon & White
2004 Record: 8-4

LEHIGH BETHLEHEM, PA

| | | |
|-------|--------------------|-------|
| S. 3 | Monmouth | |
| S. 10 | @DELAWARE | |
| S. 24 | @VIRGINIA MILITARY | |
| O. 1 | @HARVARD | |
| O. 8 | Holy Cross | 42-14 |
| O. 15 | Yale | 30-24 |
| O. 22 | @BUCKNELL | 40-17 |
| O. 29 | @COLGATE | 21-14 |
| N. 5 | Georgetown | 49-18 |
| N. 12 | @FORDHAM | 21-14 |
| N. 19 | Lafayette | 10-24 |

Coach: Pete Lembo
Nickname: Mountain Hawks

Colors: Brown & White
2004 Record: 9-3

LIBERTY LYNCHBURG, VA

| | | |
|-------|----------------------|-------|
| S. 3 | Concord | |
| S. 10 | @CONNECTICUT | |
| S. 17 | Youngstown State | 17-27 |
| S. 24 | @WILLIAM & MARY | 17-37 |
| O. 1 | Virginia Military | 38-17 |
| O. 8 | Chattanooga | 43-40 |
| O. 15 | Towson | |
| O. 22 | Coastal Carolina | 6-33 |
| O. 29 | @GARDNER-WEBB | 17-9 |
| N. 12 | @CHARLESTON SOUTHERN | 34-6 |
| N. 19 | @NORFOLK STATE | |

Coach: Ken Karcher
Nickname: Flames

Colors: Red, White & Blue
2004 Record: 6-5

MAINE ORONO, ME

| | | |
|-------|----------------|------------|
| S. 3 | @NEBRASKA | |
| S. 10 | William Penn | |
| S. 17 | Richmond | 29-25 |
| O. 1 | Albany | |
| O. 8 | @JAMES MADISON | 20-24 |
| O. 15 | @HOFSTRAS | 20-31 |
| O. 22 | Massachusetts | 34-35 (OT) |
| O. 29 | Delaware | 38-43 |
| N. 5 | @NORTHEASTERN | 35-26 |
| N. 12 | Rhode Island | 42-28 |
| N. 19 | @NEW HAMPSHIRE | 36-50 |

Coach: Jack Cosgrove
Nickname: Black Bears

Colors: White & Blue
2004 Record: 5-6

MONMOUTH WEST LONG BRANCH, NJ

| | | |
|-------|----------------------------|-------|
| S. 3 | @LEHIGH | |
| S. 10 | @LA SALLE | 34-15 |
| S. 17 | California (PA) | |
| O. 1 | @STONY BROOK | 0-27 |
| O. 8 | @SACRED HEART | 28-10 |
| O. 15 | Wagner | 14-7 |
| O. 22 | Robert Morris | 29-27 |
| O. 29 | @CENTRAL CONNECTICUT STATE | 9-6 |
| N. 5 | @ST. FRANCIS (PA) | 49-39 |
| N. 12 | Albany | 25-24 |

Coach: Kevin Callahan
Nickname: Hawks

Colors: Royal Blue & White
2004 Record: 10-1

NEW HAMPSHIRE DURHAM, NH

| | | |
|-------|-------------------|-------|
| S. 3 | @CALIFORNIA-DAVIS | |
| S. 17 | Dartmouth | 45-24 |
| O. 1 | Villanova | 51-40 |
| O. 8 | @WILLIAM & MARY | 7-9 |
| O. 15 | Rhode Island | 27-3 |
| O. 22 | Northeastern | 27-23 |
| O. 29 | @MASSACHUSETTS | 21-38 |
| N. 5 | @HOFSTRAS | 33-27 |
| N. 12 | Iona | |
| N. 19 | Maine | 50-36 |

Coach: Sean McDonnell
Nickname: Wildcats

Colors: Blue & White
2004 Record: 10-3

MONTANA MISSOULA, MT

| | | |
|-------|--------------------|-------|
| S. 3 | Fort Lewis | |
| S. 10 | @OREGON | |
| S. 17 | South Dakota State | |
| O. 1 | Weber State | 42-21 |
| O. 8 | @IDAHO STATE | 24-22 |
| O. 15 | Eastern Washington | 31-28 |
| O. 22 | Cal Poly | |
| O. 29 | Portland State | 32-35 |
| N. 5 | @NORTHERN ARIZONA | 34-22 |
| N. 12 | @SACRAMENTO STATE | 52-21 |
| N. 19 | @MONTANA STATE | 38-22 |

Coach: Bobby Hauck
Nickname: Grizzlies

Colors: Copper, Silver & Gold
2004 Record: 12-2

NICHOLLS STATE THIBODAUX, LA

| | | |
|-------|-------------------------|-------|
| S. 3 | @UTAH STATE | |
| S. 10 | @INDIANA | |
| S. 17 | Cheyney | |
| S. 24 | Western Carolina | 7-28 |
| O. 1 | @NORTH DAKOTA STATE | 14-24 |
| O. 8 | @STEPHEN F. AUSTIN | 41-23 |
| O. 15 | Sam Houston State | 10-38 |
| O. 22 | Texas State | 12-35 |
| N. 5 | @NORTHWESTERN STATE | 40-14 |
| N. 12 | @SOUTHEASTERN LOUISIANA | |
| N. 19 | McNeese State | 9-30 |

Coach: Jay Thomas
Nickname: Colonels

Colors: Cardinal, Gray & Royal
2004 Record: 5-5

MONTANA STATE BOZEMAN, MT

| | | |
|-------|---------------------|------------|
| S. 3 | @OKLAHOMA STATE | |
| S. 10 | Stephen F. Austin | |
| S. 17 | @CAL POLY | 14-27 |
| S. 24 | North Dakota State | |
| O. 1 | Idaho State | 17-13 |
| O. 8 | @WEBER STATE | 20-17 |
| O. 15 | @PORTLAND STATE | 31-24 (OT) |
| O. 22 | Northern Arizona | 60-14 |
| N. 5 | Sacramento State | 28-38 |
| N. 12 | @EASTERN WASHINGTON | 44-51 (OT) |
| N. 19 | Montana | 22-38 |

Coach: Mike Kramer
Nickname: Bobcats

Colors: Blue & Gold
2004 Record: 6-5

MOREHEAD STATE MOREHEAD, KY

| | | |
|-------|-------------------|-------|
| S. 3 | @ST. FRANCIS (PA) | 7-2 |
| S. 10 | Newberry | |
| S. 17 | @VALPARAISO | 29-23 |
| S. 24 | Dayton | 0-28 |
| O. 1 | @BUTLER | 15-7 |
| O. 8 | @JACKSONVILLE | 28-14 |
| O. 15 | Austin Peay | 28-14 |
| O. 22 | Davidson | 10-14 |
| N. 5 | @MISSOURI-ROLLA | |
| N. 12 | @GEORGIA SOUTHERN | |

Coach: Matt Ballard
Nickname: Eagles

Colors: Scarlet & White
2004 Record: 6-6

MORGAN STATE BALTIMORE, MD

| | | |
|-------|-----------------------|------------|
| S. 1 | @TOWSON | |
| S. 10 | Bowie State | 41-35 |
| S. 17 | Savannah State | ◆ |
| S. 24 | @HAMPTON | 37-49 |
| O. 1 | @BETHUNE-COOKMAN | 21-51 |
| O. 8 | North Carolina A&T | 28-26 |
| O. 15 | Howard | 35-42 (OT) |
| O. 22 | @DELAWARE STATE | 34-30 |
| O. 29 | Florida A&M | |
| N. 5 | Norfolk State | 58-28 |
| N. 12 | @SOUTH CAROLINA STATE | 35-38 (OT) |

◆ At Cleveland, OH

Coach: Donald Hill-Eley

Colors: Royal Blue & Orange

Nickname: Bears

2004 Record: 5-6

MURRAY STATE MURRAY, KY

| | | |
|-------|---------------------------|------------|
| S. 3 | @MISSISSIPPI STATE | |
| S. 10 | Indiana State | 21-28 |
| S. 17 | @ILLINOIS STATE | |
| O. 1 | @TENNESSEE TECH | 34-15 |
| O. 8 | Jacksonville State | 14-35 |
| O. 15 | @SAMFORD | 24-21 |
| O. 22 | Eastern Illinois | 9-24 |
| O. 29 | @SOUTHEAST MISSOURI STATE | 28-13 |
| N. 5 | Eastern Kentucky | 19-16 (OT) |
| N. 12 | Austin Peay | |
| N. 19 | @TENNESSEE-MARTIN | 38-0 |

Coach: Joe Pannunzio

Colors: Blue & Gold

Nickname: Racers

2004 Record: 7-4

NORTHEASTERN BOSTON, MA

| | | |
| --- | --- | --- |
| S. 3 | Georgia Southern | |

<tbl_r cells="3" ix



Scores at right indicate 2004 results

NORTHERN ARIZONA FLAGSTAFF, AZ

| | | |
|-------|--------------------|-------|
| S. 1 | Adams State | |
| S. 10 | @ARIZONA | 3-21 |
| S. 17 | Southern Utah | |
| S. 24 | @WEBER STATE | 55-27 |
| 0. 1 | @SACRAMENTO STATE | 26-0 |
| 0. 8 | Eastern Washington | 14-45 |
| 0. 22 | @PORTLAND STATE | 21-20 |
| 0. 29 | @MONTANA STATE | 14-60 |
| N. 5 | Montana | 22-34 |
| N. 12 | Idaho State | 17-24 |
| N. 19 | @NORTHERN IOWA | 21-45 |

Coach: Jerome Souers Colors: Blue & Gold
Nickname: Lumberjacks 2004 Record: 4-7

NORTHERN COLORADO GREELEY, CO

| | | |
|-------|------------------------|-------|
| S. 3 | Colorado Mines | |
| S. 10 | @WESTERN ILLINOIS | |
| S. 17 | Southeastern Louisiana | 13-26 |
| S. 24 | @PORTLAND STATE | |
| 0. 1 | Cal Poly | 0-31 |
| 0. 22 | @SOUTHERN UTAH | 42-7 |
| 0. 29 | Fort Lewis | |
| N. 5 | @NORTH DAKOTA STATE | 15-13 |
| N. 12 | Sam Houston State | 7-20 |
| N. 19 | @SOUTH DAKOTA STATE | 7-14 |
| N. 26 | @CALIFORNIA-DAVIS | 20-30 |

Coach: Kay Dalton Colors: Purple & Gold

Nickname: Bears 2004 Record: 2-9

NORTHERN IOWA CEDAR FALLS, IA

| | | |
|-------|-------------------|-------|
| S. 1 | Drake | |
| S. 10 | Minnesota-Duluth | |
| S. 17 | @IOWA | |
| 0. 1 | @WESTERN ILLINOIS | 36-13 |
| 0. 8 | @SMS | 42-20 |
| 0. 15 | Indiana State | 58-6 |
| 0. 22 | @ILLINOIS STATE | 41-14 |
| 0. 29 | Youngstown State | 22-20 |
| N. 5 | @WESTERN KENTUCKY | 10-17 |
| N. 12 | Southern Illinois | 36-40 |
| N. 19 | Northern Arizona | 45-21 |

Coach: Mark Farley Colors: Purple & Old Gold

Nickname: Panthers 2004 Record: 7-4

NORTHWESTERN STATE NATCHITOCHES, LA

| | | |
|-------|------------------------|-------|
| S. 1 | @LOUISIANA-MONROE | |
| S. 10 | North Dakota State | 17-30 |
| S. 17 | @LOUISIANA-LAFAYETTE | 7-14 |
| S. 24 | Texas Southern | 52-6 |
| 0. 8 | @SAM HOUSTON STATE | 45-27 |
| 0. 15 | Southeastern Louisiana | |
| 0. 22 | @TEXAS STATE | 44-7 |
| 0. 29 | Northeastern | |
| N. 5 | Nicholls State | 14-40 |
| N. 12 | @MCNEESE STATE | 47-17 |
| N. 19 | Stephen F. Austin | 37-16 |

Coach: Scott Stoker Colors: Purple & White

Nickname: Demons 2004 Record: 8-4

PENNSYLVANIA PHILADELPHIA, PA

| | | |
|-------|------------|------------|
| S. 17 | Duquesne | |
| S. 24 | @VILLANOVA | 13-16 |
| 0. 1 | @DARTMOUTH | 35-0 |
| 0. 8 | Bucknell | 32-25 (OT) |
| 0. 15 | @COLUMBIA | 14-3 |
| 0. 22 | Yale | 17-7 |
| 0. 29 | @BROWN | 20-16 |
| N. 5 | Princeton | 16-15 |
| N. 12 | @HARVARD | 10-31 |
| N. 19 | Cornell | 20-14 |

♦ At Philadelphia, PA

Coach: Al Bagnoli Colors: Red & Blue

Nickname: Quakers 2004 Record: 8-2

PORTLAND STATE PORTLAND, OR

| | | |
|-------|---------------------|------------|
| S. 3 | @OREGON STATE | |
| S. 10 | @CALIFORNIA-DAVIS | 38-21 |
| S. 17 | Sacramento State | 31-0 |
| S. 24 | Northern Colorado | |
| 0. 1 | @EASTERN WASHINGTON | 21-41 |
| 0. 8 | @BOISE STATE | |
| 0. 15 | Montana State | 24-31 (OT) |
| 0. 22 | Northern Arizona | 20-21 |
| 0. 29 | @MONTANA | 35-32 |
| N. 5 | @IDAHO STATE | 42-21 |
| N. 12 | Weber State | 34-15 |

Coach: Tim Walsh Colors: Forest Green & White

Nickname: Vikings 2004 Record: 7-4

PRALIE VIEW A&M PRALIE VIEW, TX

| | | |
|-------|--------------------------|-------|
| S. 3 | @TEXAS SOUTHERN | ◆ |
| S. 10 | Paul Quinn | 31-12 |
| S. 17 | @SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY | 12-42 |
| 0. 1 | @GRAMBLING STATE | ★ |
| 0. 8 | @ALCORN STATE | 32-53 |
| 0. 15 | @ALABAMA STATE | 15-26 |
| 0. 22 | @LINCOLN (MO) | 20-14 |
| 0. 29 | Mississippi Valley State | 34-42 |
| N. 5 | @ARKANSAS-PINE BLUFF | 23-24 |
| N. 12 | Jackson State | 28-45 |
| N. 19 | Alabama A&M | 6-42 |

♦ At Houston, TX
At Dallas, TX
Coach: Henry Frazier
Nickname: Panthers

Colors: Purple & Gold
2004 Record: 3-8

SACRED HEART FAIRFIELD, CT

| | | |
|-------|---------------------------|------------|
| S. 3 | @HOLY CROSS | |
| S. 10 | Marist | 38-10 |
| S. 17 | @IONA | 48-7 |
| 0. 1 | @WAGNER | 30-24 (OT) |
| 0. 8 | Monmouth | 10-28 |
| 0. 15 | @ALBANY | 6-23 |
| 0. 22 | Stony Brook | 38-35 |
| 0. 29 | St. Francis (PA) | 28-35 |
| N. 5 | Central Connecticut State | 6-27 |
| N. 12 | @ROBERT MORRIS | 24-3 |

Coach: Paul Gorham
Nickname: Pioneers

Colors: Red & White
2004 Record: 6-4

SOUTH DAKOTA STATE BROOKINGS, SD

| | | |
|-------|---------------------|------------|
| S. 3 | Wisconsin-La Crosse | |
| S. 10 | Valparaiso | |
| S. 17 | @MONTANA | |
| S. 24 | Cal Poly | 7-14 |
| 0. 1 | @TEXAS STATE | |
| 0. 8 | California-Davis | 0-52 |
| 0. 22 | Missouri-Rolla | |
| 0. 29 | Georgia Southern | 7-63 |
| N. 5 | Southern Utah | 17-23 (OT) |
| N. 12 | @NORTH DAKOTA STATE | 24-21 |
| N. 19 | Northern Colorado | 14-7 |

Coach: John Stiegelmeier
Nickname: Jackrabbits

Colors: Yellow & Blue
2004 Record: 6-5

SAM HOUSTON STATE HUNTSVILLE, TX

| | | |
|-------|------------------------|-------|
| S. 1 | Bacone College | |
| S. 10 | @HOUSTON | |
| S. 17 | @TEXAS TECH | |
| S. 24 | SMS | 31-33 |
| 0. 8 | Northwestern State | 27-45 |
| 0. 15 | @NICHOLLS STATE | 38-10 |
| 0. 22 | Stephen F. Austin | 31-28 |
| 0. 29 | @MCNEESE STATE | 52-47 |
| N. 5 | Southeastern Louisiana | 45-17 |
| N. 12 | @NORTHERN COLORADO | 20-7 |
| N. 19 | @TEXAS STATE | 27-9 |

Coach: Ron Randleman

Colors: Orange & White

Nickname: Bearcats

2004 Record: 11-3

Coach: Bill Gray

Colors: Red & Blue

Nickname: Bulldogs

2004 Record: 4-7

Coach: Tim Billings

Colors: Red & Black

Nickname: Redhawks

2004 Record: 3-8

SOUTHEAST MISSOURI ST. CAPE GIRARDEAU, MO

| | | |
|-------|--------------------|------------|
| S. 1 | Southern Illinois | 3-42 |
| S. 10 | @KENT STATE | |
| S. 17 | @SMS | 9-47 |
| S. 24 | Jacksonville State | 51-48 (OT) |
| 0. 1 | @SAMFORD | 28-35 |
| 0. 8 | Eastern Illinois | 13-38 |
| 0. 22 | @EASTERN KENTUCKY | 13-38 |
| 0. 29 | Murray State | 13-28 |
| N. 5 | @TENNESSEE-MARTIN | 35-7 |
| N. 12 | Tennessee State | 36-38 |
| N. 19 | @TENNESSEE TECH | 31-28 (OT) |

Coach: Dennis Roland

Colors: Cardinal, Silver & Black

Nickname: Lions

2004 Record: 7-4

Coach: Jerry Kill

Colors: Maroon & White

Nickname: Salukis

2004 Record: 10-2

Coach: Jim Harbaugh

Colors: Navy, Columbia Blue & White

Nickname: Toreros

2004 Record: 7-4

Coach: Richard Basil

Colors: Blue & Orange

Nickname: Tigers

2004 Record: 2-8

Coach: Richard Richardson

Colors: Blue & Gold

Nickname: Jaguars

2004 Record: 8-4

♦ At Mobile, AL

* At New Orleans, LA

Coach: Pete Richardson

Colors: Blue & Gold

Nickname: Jaguars

2004 Record: 8-4

♦ At Birmingham, OH

* At Jacksonville, FL

Coach: Wes Meier

Colors: Scarlet, Royal Blue & White

Nickname: Thunderbirds

2004 Record: 6-5

♦ At Birmingham, AL

* At Jacksonville, FL

Coach: Doug Pugh

Colors: Garnet & Blue

Nickname: Bulldogs

2004 Record: 9-2

♦ At Birmingham, AL

* At Jacksonville, FL

Coach: Steve Mooshagian

Colors: Green & Gold

Nickname: Hornets

2004 Record: 3-8

♦ At Jacksonville, FL

* At Jacksonville, FL

Coach: Doug Pugh

Colors: Garnet & Blue

Nickname: Bulldogs

2004 Record: 9-2

♦ At Jacksonville, FL

* At Jacksonville, FL

Coach: Doug Pugh

Colors: Garnet & Blue

Nickname: Bulldogs

2004 Record: 9-2

♦ At Jacksonville, FL

* At Jacksonville, FL

Coach: Doug Pugh

Colors: Garnet & Blue

Nickname: Bulldogs

2004 Record: 9-2

♦ At Jacksonville, FL

* At Jacksonville, FL

Coach: Doug Pugh

Colors: Garnet & Blue

Nickname: Bulldogs

2004 Record: 9-2

♦ At Jacksonville, FL

* At Jacksonville, FL

Coach: Doug Pugh

Colors: Garnet & Blue

Nickname: Bulldogs

2004 Record: 9-2

♦ At Jacksonville, FL

* At Jacksonville, FL

Coach: Doug Pugh

Colors: Garnet & Blue

Nickname: Bulldogs

2004 Record: 9-2

♦ At Jacksonville, FL

* At Jacksonville, FL

Coach: Doug Pugh

Colors: Garnet & Blue

Nickname: Bulldogs

2004 Record

NCAA**DIVISION I-AA SCHEDULES 2005****SOUTHWEST MISSOURI STATE SPRINGFIELD, MO**

| | | |
|------|--------------------------|-------|
| S.3 | @ARKANSAS | |
| S.10 | Quincy | |
| S.17 | Southeast Missouri State | |
| S.24 | @SAM HOUSTON STATE | 33-31 |
| 0.1 | @SOUTHERN ILLINOIS | 3-27 |
| 0.8 | Northern Iowa | 20-42 |
| 0.15 | @WESTERN KENTUCKY | 24-28 |
| 0.22 | @YOUNGSTOWN STATE | 34-28 |
| 0.29 | Indiana State | 31-28 |
| N.5 | Illinois State | 31-34 |
| N.12 | @WESTERN ILLINOIS | 36-31 |

Coach: Randy Ball
Nickname: BearsColors: Maroon & White
2004 Record: 6-5**ST. FRANCIS (PA) LORETO, PA**

| | | |
|------|---------------------------|-------|
| S.3 | Morehead State | 2-7 |
| S.10 | @ST. PETER'S | |
| S.24 | @LA SALLE | 45-42 |
| 0.1 | @ROBERT MORRIS | 10-28 |
| 0.8 | Central Connecticut State | 17-35 |
| 0.15 | @STONY BROOK | 21-29 |
| 0.22 | Albany | 0-38 |
| 0.29 | @SACRED HEART | 35-28 |
| N.5 | Monmouth | 39-49 |
| N.12 | @WAGNER | 14-17 |
| N.19 | Duquesne | |

Coach: Dave Opfer
Nickname: Red FlashColors: Red & White
2004 Record: 3-8**ST. PETER'S JERSEY CITY, NJ**

| | | |
|------|----------------------------|-------|
| S.1 | Western Connecticut State | |
| S.10 | St. Francis (PA) | |
| S.15 | Wagner | |
| 0.1 | @CENTRAL CONNECTICUT STATE | 15-30 |
| 0.8 | Iona | 23-14 |
| 0.15 | @DUQUESNE | 8-34 |
| 0.22 | @SALISBURY STATE | |
| 0.29 | Marist | 20-22 |
| N.5 | Pace | 13-6 |
| N.12 | @LA SALLE | 27-30 |

Coach: Chris Taylor
Nickname: PeacocksColors: Blue & White
2004 Record: 3-7**STEPHEN F. AUSTIN NACOGDOCHES, TX**

| | | |
|------|------------------------|-------|
| S.1 | Henderson State | 30-14 |
| S.10 | @MONTANA STATE | |
| S.17 | Western Illinois | |
| S.24 | @SOUTHERN UTAH | 24-21 |
| 0.8 | Nicholls State | 23-41 |
| 0.15 | @MCNEESE STATE | 55-7 |
| 0.22 | @SAM HOUSTON STATE | 28-31 |
| 0.29 | Southeastern Louisiana | |
| N.5 | California-Davis | 22-19 |
| N.12 | Texas State | 14-17 |
| N.19 | @NORTHWESTERN STATE | 16-37 |

Coach: Mike Santiago
Nickname: LumberjacksColors: Purple & White
2004 Record: 6-5**STONY BROOK STONY BROOK, NY**

| | | |
|------|---------------------------|-------|
| S.10 | Bucknell | 21-61 |
| S.24 | Georgetown | |
| 0.1 | Monmouth | 27-0 |
| 0.8 | @ALBANY | 22-27 |
| 0.15 | St. Francis (PA) | 29-21 |
| 0.22 | @SACRED HEART | 35-38 |
| 0.29 | @ROBERT MORRIS | 24-31 |
| N.5 | Wagner | 13-21 |
| N.12 | Central Connecticut State | 28-38 |
| N.19 | @MARIST | |

Coach: Sam Kornhauser
Nickname: SeawolvesColors: Scarlet & Grey
2004 Record: 3-7**TENNESSEE STATE NASHVILLE, TN**

| | | |
|------|---------------------------|------------|
| S.3 | Alabama A&M | 42-7 |
| S.10 | @JACKSON STATE | 21-20 |
| S.17 | @TENNESSEE-MARTIN | 27-13 |
| S.24 | @FLORIDA A&M | 15-21 |
| 0.1 | @NORTH CAROLINA A&T | |
| 0.13 | @TENNESSEE TECH | |
| 0.22 | Jacksonville State | 35-49 |
| 0.29 | @SAMFORD | 36-42 (OT) |
| N.5 | Eastern Illinois | 24-34 |
| N.12 | @SOUTHEAST MISSOURI STATE | 38-36 |
| N.19 | Eastern Kentucky | 14-29 |

Coach: James Reese
Nickname: TigersColors: Royal Blue & White
2004 Record: 4-7**TENNESSEE TECH COOKEVILLE, TN**

| | | |
|------|--------------------------|------------|
| S.3 | @CHATTANOOGA | 52-34 |
| S.8 | Lambuth | |
| S.17 | @NORTHERN ILLINOIS | |
| S.24 | @EASTERN KENTUCKY | 18-19 |
| 0.1 | Murray State | 15-34 |
| 0.8 | @TENNESSEE-MARTIN | 49-20 |
| 0.13 | Tennessee State | |
| 0.29 | @JACKSONVILLE STATE | 16-13 |
| N.5 | Samford | 17-20 |
| N.12 | @EASTERN ILLINOIS | 40-37 (OT) |
| N.19 | Southeast Missouri State | 28-31 (OT) |

Coach: Mike Hennigan
Nickname: Golden EaglesColors: Purple & Gold
2004 Record: 6-5**VALPARAISO VALPARAISO, IN**

| | | |
|------|---------------------|-------|
| S.3 | @WISCONSIN LUTHERAN | 41-0 |
| S.10 | @SOUTH DAKOTA STATE | |
| S.17 | Morehead State | 23-29 |
| S.24 | Davidson | |
| 0.1 | @AUSTIN PEAY | 24-14 |
| 0.8 | St. Joseph's (IN) | |
| 0.15 | @BUTLER | 31-26 |
| 0.22 | @DAYTON | 7-38 |
| 0.29 | San Diego | 14-49 |
| N.5 | Drake | 10-37 |
| N.12 | @AURORA | 33-0 |

Coach: Tom Horne
Nickname: CrusadersColors: Brown & Gold
2004 Record: 5-6**WESTERN ILLINOIS MACOMB, IL**

| | | |
|------|--------------------|-------|
| S.1 | @TOLEDO | |
| S.10 | Northern Colorado | |
| S.17 | @STEPHEN F. AUSTIN | |
| S.24 | Iowa Wesleyan | |
| 0.1 | Northern Iowa | 13-36 |
| 0.8 | Southern Illinois | 13-66 |
| 0.15 | @YOUNGSTOWN STATE | 9-34 |
| 0.22 | Western Kentucky | 3-45 |
| 0.29 | @ILLINOIS STATE | 40-31 |
| N.5 | @INDIANA STATE | 29-27 |
| N.12 | SMS | 31-36 |

Coach: Don Patterson
Nickname: LeathernecksColors: Purple & Gold
2004 Record: 4-7**TENNESSEE-MARTIN MARTIN, TN**

| | | |
|------|--------------------------|-------|
| S.1 | Central Arkansas | |
| S.10 | @ARKANSAS STATE | |
| S.17 | Tennessee State | 13-27 |
| S.24 | @GARDNER-WEBB | |
| 0.8 | Tennessee Tech | 20-49 |
| 0.15 | @JACKSONVILLE STATE | 12-59 |
| 0.22 | Samford | 20-34 |
| 0.29 | @EASTERN ILLINOIS | 32-14 |
| N.5 | Southeast Missouri State | 7-35 |
| N.12 | @EASTERN KENTUCKY | 14-41 |
| N.19 | Murray State | 0-38 |

Coach: Matt Griffin
Nickname: SkyhawksColors: Orange, Blue & Gold
2004 Record: 2-9**TEXAS SOUTHERN HOUSTON, TX**

| | | |
|------|---------------------------|-------|
| S.3 | Prairie View A&M | 7-25 |
| S.10 | Alabama State | 15-55 |
| S.17 | @JACKSON STATE | |
| S.24 | @NORTHWESTERN STATE | 6-52 |
| 0.1 | @ALABAMA A&M | 3-22 |
| 0.15 | Alcorn State | 0-30 |
| 0.22 | @MISSISSIPPI VALLEY STATE | 14-15 |
| 0.29 | @GRAMBLING STATE | 10-28 |
| N.5 | Southern University | 0-28 |
| N.12 | @UTEP | |
| N.19 | Arkansas-Pine Bluff | 0-42 |

◆ At Houston, TX

Coach: Steve Wilson
Nickname: TigersColors: Maroon & Gray
2004 Record: 0-11**TEXAS STATE SAN MARCOS, TX**

| | | |
|------|-------------------------|------------|
| S.3 | Delta State | |
| S.10 | Southern Utah | |
| S.24 | @TEXAS A&M | |
| 0.1 | South Dakota State | |
| 0.8 | @SOUTHEASTERN LOUISIANA | 31-28 (OT) |
| 0.15 | Panhandle State | |
| 0.22 | Northwestern State | 7-44 |
| 0.29 | @NICHOLLS STATE | 35-12 |
| N.5 | McNeese State | 54-27 |
| N.12 | @STEPHEN F. AUSTIN | 17-14 |
| N.19 | Sam Houston State | 9-27 |

Coach: David Ballif

Nickname: Bobcats

Colors: Maroon & Gold
2004 Record: 5-6**TOWSON TOWSON, MD**

| | | |
|------|-----------------|-------|
| S.1 | Morgan State | |
| S.10 | Lock Haven | |
| S.17 | New Hampshire | 24-62 |
| S.24 | @NORTHEASTERN | 3-27 |
| 0.1 | Delaware | 17-21 |
| 0.8 | @RHODE ISLAND | 16-28 |
| 0.15 | @LIBERTY | |
| 0.22 | @WILLIAM & MARY | 16-41 |
| N.5 | Villanova | 6-41 |
| N.12 | Richmond | 0-24 |
| N.19 | @JAMES MADISON | 17-31 |

Coach: Gordy Combs

Nickname: Tigers

Colors: White, Gold & Black
2004 Record: 3-8**UC DAVIS DAVIS, CA**

| | | |
|------|---------------------|-------|
| S.3 | New Hampshire | |
| S.10 | Portland | |
| S.17 | @Stanford | |
| S.24 | @Sacramento State | 58-23 |
| 0.8 | @South Dakota State | 52-0 |
| 0.15 | Southern Utah | 15-19 |
| 0.22 | @North Dakota State | 7-25 |
| 0.29 | Cal Poly | 36-33 |
| N.5 | Stephen F. Austin | 18-21 |
| N.19 | @Eastern Washington | |
| N.26 | Northern Colorado | 30-20 |

Coach: Bob Biggs

Nickname: Aggies

Colors: Yale Blue & Gold
2004 Record: 6-4**WEBER STATE OGDEN, UT**

| | | |
|------|---------------------|-------|
| S.3 | Western State | |
| S.10 | @FRESNO STATE | |
| S.17 | @NORTH DAKOTA STATE | 17-31 |
| S.24 | Northern Arizona | 27-55 |
| 0.1 | @MONTANA | 21-42 |
| 0.8 | Montana State | 17-20 |
| 0.15 | Sacramento State | 12-31 |
| 0.22 | @EASTERN WASHINGTON | 7-51 |
| N.5 | Idaho State | 26-14 |
| N.12 | @PORTLAND STATE | 15-34 |
| N.19 | @SOUTHERN UTAH | 31-34 |

Coach: Jerry Graybeal

Nickname: Wildcats

Colors: Royal Purple & White
2004 Record: 1-10**YALE NEW HAVEN, CT**

| | | |
|------|---------------|-------|
| S.17 | @SAN DIEGO | |
| S.24 | Cornell | 7-19 |
| 0.1 | Holy Cross | |
| 0.8 | Dartmouth | 24-14 |
| 0.15 | @LEHIGH | 24-30 |
| 0.22 | @PENNSYLVANIA | 7-17 |
| 0.29 | @COLUMBIA | 21-14 |
| N.5 | Brown | 17-24 |
| N.12 | @PRINCETON | 21-9 |
| N.19 | Harvard | 3-35 |

Coach: Jack Siedlecki

Nickname: Bulldogs

Colors: Yale Blue
2004 Record: 5-5**YOUNGSTOWN STATE YOUNGSTOWN, OH**

| | | |
|------|------------------|-------|
| S.1 | Slippery Rock | 35-13 |
| S.10 | Northeastern | |
| S.17 | @LIBERTY | 27-17 |
| S.24 | @PITTBURGH | |
| 0.1 | Illinois State | 24-30 |
| 0.8 | @INDIANA STATE | 45-20 |
| 0.15 | Western Illinois | 34-9 |
| 0.22 | SMS</ | |

tip OFF ...

2005-06

Street & Smith's

COLLEGE & PRO

BASKETBALL ANNUALS

PRO BASKETBALL on sale **Sept. 06**
ad close July 25

COLLEGE BASKETBALL on sale **Sept. 27**
ad close Aug. 12

CALL: 704-973-1358



BOWL SCHEDULE 2005-06

ALL TIMES EASTERN

New Orleans Bowl

Dec. 20, 2005 (New Orleans)
Sun Belt 1st vs. C-USA
8 p.m. ESPN

GMAC Bowl

Dec. 21, 2005 (Mobile, Ala.)
C-USA 2nd vs. MAC/WAC
8 p.m. ESPN

Las Vegas Bowl

Dec. 22, 2005 (Las Vegas, Nev.)
MWC 1st/2nd vs. Pac-10 5th
8 p.m. ESPN

Poinsettia Bowl

Dec. 22, 2005 (San Diego)
MWC vs. At-large
4 p.m. ESPN2

Fort Worth Bowl

Dec. 23, 2005 (Fort Worth, Texas)
C-USA 4th vs. Big 12 8th
8 p.m. ESPN

Hawai'i Bowl

Dec. 24, 2005 (Honolulu)
C-USA 3rd vs. WAC
8:30 p.m. ESPN

Motor City Bowl

Dec. 26, 2005 (Detroit)
MAC 1st/2nd vs. Big Ten 7th
4 p.m. ESPN

Champs Sports Bowl

Dec. 27, 2005 (Orlando)
ACC 4th/5th vs. Big 12 7th
5 p.m. ESPN

Insight Bowl

Dec. 27, 2005 (Phoenix)
Pac-10 4th vs. Big East 2nd/3rd
TBD ESPN

Alamo Bowl

Dec. 28, 2005 (San Antonio)
Big 12 4th vs. Big Ten 4th
8 p.m. ESPN

MPC Computers Bowl

Dec. 28, 2005 (Boise, Idaho)
WAC 1st/2nd/3rd vs. ACC 6th
4:30 p.m. ESPN

Emerald Bowl

Dec. 29, 2005 (San Francisco)
MWC 2nd/3rd vs. Pac-10 6th
1:30 p.m. ESPN

Holiday Bowl

Dec. 29, 2005 (San Diego)
Pac-10 2nd vs. Big 12 3rd
8 p.m. ESPN

Independence Bowl

Dec. 30, 2005 (Shreveport, La.)
Big 12 5th vs. SEC 6th/7th
3:30 p.m. ESPN

Music City Bowl

Dec. 30, 2005 (Nashville)
SEC 6th vs. Big Ten 6th
Noon ESPN

Peach Bowl

Dec. 30, 2005 (Atlanta)
ACC 3rd vs. SEC
7:30 p.m. ESPN

Sun Bowl

Dec. 30, 2005 (El Paso, Texas)
Big Ten 5th vs. Pac-10 3rd
Noon CBS

Houston Bowl

Dec. 31, 2005 (Houston)
Big 12 5th/6th vs. SEC West
2:30 p.m. ESPN2

Liberty Bowl

Dec. 31, 2005 (Memphis)
C-USA 1st vs. TBD
1 p.m. ESPN

Meineke Car Care Bowl

Dec. 31, 2005 (Charlotte, N.C.)
ACC vs. Big East
11 a.m. ESPN2

Capital One Bowl

Jan. 2, 2006 (Orlando)
Big Ten 2nd vs. SEC 2nd
1 p.m. ABC

Cotton Bowl

Jan. 2, 2006 (Dallas)
Big 12 vs. SEC
11 a.m. Fox

Gator Bowl

Jan. 2, 2006 (Jacksonville, Fla.)
ACC 2nd vs. Big East 2nd
12:30 p.m. NBC

Outback Bowl

Jan. 2, 2006 (Tampa)
Big Ten 3rd vs. SEC East 3rd
11 a.m. ESPN

Fiesta Bowl

Jan. 2, 2006 (Tempe, Ariz.)
BCS vs. BCS
4:30 p.m. ABC

Sugar Bowl

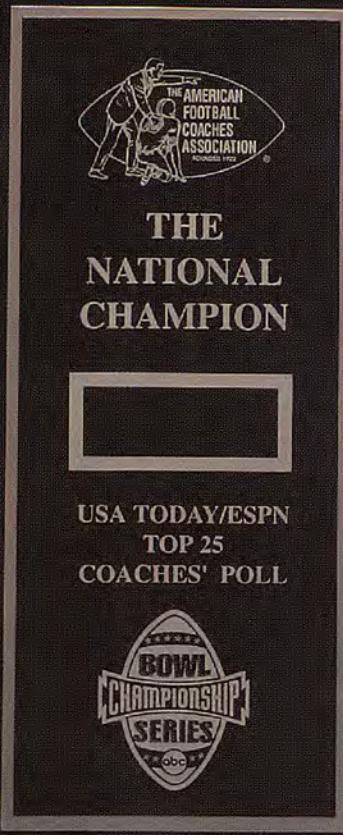
Jan. 2, 2006 (New Orleans)
BCS vs. BCS
8:30 p.m. ABC

Orange Bowl

Jan. 3, 2006 (Miami)
BCS vs. BCS
8 p.m. ABC

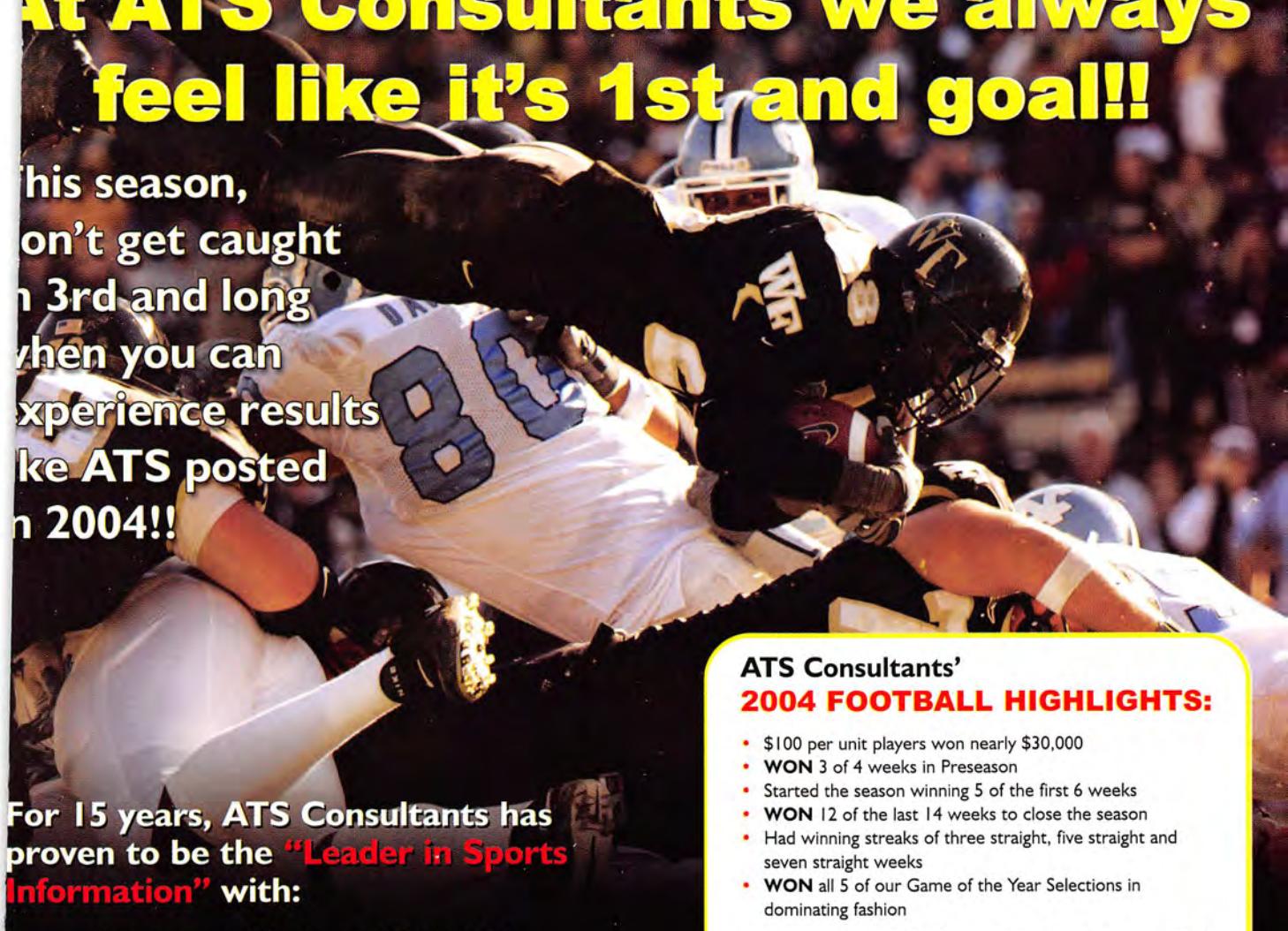
Rose Bowl

BCS National Championship Game
Jan. 4, 2006 (Pasadena, Calif.)
BCS vs. BCS
8 p.m. ABC



At ATS Consultants we always feel like it's 1st and goal!!

This season, don't get caught in 3rd and long when you can experience results like ATS posted in 2004!!



For 15 years, ATS Consultants has proven to be the "Leader in Sports Information" with:

- A sports consulting team with over 200 years of combined experience
- The best resources to gather the sharpest information
- The only firm in the nation that offers a guarantee... because we're still the only firm that can produce season after season
- Possesses the most sophisticated football handicapping software ever assembled

From preseason thru the SuperBowl for about a \$1 or \$2 a selection you'll finally receive what you always expected a great investment to do!

With ATS Consultants you can receive your selections 5+ hours before kickoff via online, 800# or private automated telephone mailbox.

For more information on the 2005 Football Season please feel free to call an account executive for a free brochure at 1-800-772-1287 or check out our website at www.atwins.com

ATS Consultants' 2004 FOOTBALL HIGHLIGHTS:

- \$100 per unit players won nearly \$30,000
- WON 3 of 4 weeks in Preseason
- Started the season winning 5 of the first 6 weeks
- WON 12 of the last 14 weeks to close the season
- Had winning streaks of three straight, five straight and seven straight weeks
- WON all 5 of our Game of the Year Selections in dominating fashion

| | | | |
|-------------|---------------------|-------------------------|-----|
| Early: | UTEP (+29') | over Boise State 31-47 | WON |
| Underdog: | Arkansas St. (+14') | over Troy 13-9 | WON |
| College: | Oregon (+21) | over Cal 27-28 | WON |
| Pro: | Minnesota (-6) | over Jacksonville 27-16 | WON |
| Postseason: | Texas Tech (+11) | over Cal 45-31 | WON |

Wager on football with any Offshore Sportsbook!

ATS' top 20 list of Offshore Sportsbooks is available FREE in every ATS Football Annual.

ABSOLUTELY FREE!!



Receive a copy of
ATS Consultants'
2005 Ultimate
College, Pro or
Fantasy Football
Annuals

See our ad on page 4 for all your FREE gifts!

Ask for operator # 1052

1-800-772-1287 • WWW.ATSWINS.COM



Meet the freshman phenom.

Sitting low on the road, crouched in a wide-bodied stance, the Solstice has earned its right to be this year's top prospect. With 18" aluminum wheels, 177 hp and a 5-speed Aisin manual transmission, this one's designed to turn heads for years to come. The first-ever Solstice. Designed for Action.

PONTIAC  **SOLSTICE**

Official Performance Machines of the NCAA®